

THE ABINGDONIAN

VOL. XI. No. 1

JANUARY, 1957

Price 1/6d.

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CALENDAR, LENT TERM, 1957

January

Fri. 18 Term begins.

February

Sat. 2 1st XI v. Solihull School (a).
 Wed. 6 1st XI v. Reading School (h).
 Wed. 13 1st XI v. Radley College 2nd XI (h).
 Sat. 16 1st XI v. Wallingford Grammar School (a).
 Wed. 20 1st XI v. Hockey Association (h).
 Sat. 23 1st XI v. Old Abingdonians (h).
 Wed. 27 1st XI v. Windsor County School (h).

March

Sat. 2 1st XI v. King Alfred's School, Wantage (h).
 Wed. 6 1st XI v. Old College, Sandhurst (h).
 Thurs. 7 Field Day—C.C.F. and Scouts.
 Sat. 9 1st XI v. Abingdon H.C. (h).
 Athletic Meeting v. Bloxham School (a).
 Sat. 16 Athletic Meeting v. Old Abingdonians (h).
 Wed. 20 Athletic Meeting v. Southfield School (h).
 Mon. 25 Athletic Meeting v. City of Oxford School (a).
 Tues. 26—Fri. 29 General Inspection.
 Fri. 29
 Thurs. 28 Midland Public Schools' Athletic Meeting
(Birmingham).
 Sat. 30 School Sports.

April

Tues. 2 Term ends, 10.15 a.m.

Summer Term begins 9 a.m., Tuesday, 30th April, 1957.

(Boarders return, Monday, 29th April).

Misericordias
Domini



in aeternum
cantabo

OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL

January, 1957

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)

J. T. Buckland (D)

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. Robins (D)

I. J. Glenny (W)

H. C. Bowen (C)

M. G. Nichol (D)

B. E. Stacey (S)

I. A. Oliver (C)

W. C. Broad (D)

HOUSE PREFECTS

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

Crescent House—S. H. Freedman, P. S. Candy, J. T. Saywell.

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, D. S. Gerrard, M. R. H.
Hill, C. Young, J. H. Thewlis, P. D. Exon.

Captain of Hockey—I. J. Glenny.

Secretary of Hockey—S. C. Woodley.

Captain of Boats—B. L. Smith.

Secretary of Boats—M. R. S. Broadway.

Secretary of Athletics—W. W. Budden.

Secretary of Rugger—G. F. Wastie.

"The Abingdonian"

Editor—S. C. Woodley.

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

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

EDITORIAL

The Michaelmas Term was a memorable one. The visit of the Queen to Abingdon stands out, but the achievement of four open awards, the success of the rugger team and, not least important, the fine weather, helped to make it a pleasant, as well as an eventful, term. It may be that the next few months will not see external events of the magnitude of Suez or Hungary, but it is certain that on the home front we face another occasion of great importance: the visit of Her Majesty's Inspectors in March.

The Inspectors will find that the School has changed greatly since May, 1939, when the last Inspection took place. The number of boys in the School has almost trebled since that time, and Larkhill, Lacies Court, the Science Block, Crescent House, Glyndowr, and now another block of classrooms, have become part of the School since the war.

But the worth of a school is not to be measured by its size, numerical or territorial, nor even by its sporting or academic successes, but by the spirit of the school as a whole and by the type of boy it produces. We gather that the 1939 Inspectors left with a most favourable impression. This we hope will not be different. We hope that the 1957 Inspectors will take away with them, to whatever Elysian Fields are haunted by Inspectors, the memory of a school where personal freedom and sound discipline meet happily, a school which is fortunate, not only in material achievements, but in the spirit and loyalty of its members, past and present.

SCHOOL NOTES

The climax of the Quatercentenary Celebrations came with the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to the Borough on Friday, 2nd November. Reference to this and to other events in the Quatercentenary programme will be found later in the magazine. Here we need only say how proud the School was to take such an active part in the celebrations. Perhaps too it would not be out of place to offer our respectful congratulations to the Mayor and Mayoress of Abingdon on the magnificent *aplomb* with which they rose to the occasion.

Somewhere too it should be put on record—and where better than in these pages?—how well the Council organised the Celebrations. Members of a local Council have a pretty thankless job nowadays and it is pleasant to be able to offer a bouquet of appreciation when it has been so well deserved.

We congratulate Mr. J. L. West, Old Boy and Governor, on the well-deserved award of the O.B.E. which he received in the New Year's Honours List in recognition of his services as Chairman of the Berkshire Civil Defence Committee.

In the same List we were interested to read of the award of the C.B.E. to Dr. Helen Cam, the mediaeval historian, who is of course the daughter of a former headmaster of the School.

We are very grateful to Sir Reader Bullard, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., who found time in a busy life to write the appreciation of 'The Rivals' that is contained in this issue.

Our thanks, too, to Alderman Percy Holmes for the gift of interesting photographs of the School buildings and grounds taken between the two wars.

It was extremely good of Alderman Freeman, the Chairman of the Berkshire Education Committee and one of our own Governors, to give up a precious Sunday afternoon in order to show an enthusiastic party of boys round the Didcot Locomotive Depot. Very many thanks!

The Headmaster was incorporated into the degree of Master of Arts of Oxford University, as a member of Pembroke College, on 24th November. It is interesting to note that our last Cambridge Headmaster, Mr. Layng (also of Jesus College, Cambridge) similarly incorporated to Pembroke in 1908.

Mr. Gray proceeded to his M.A. degree at Oxford on the same date.

We congratulate Dr. and Mrs. Cherry on the birth of a son.

It is with particular pleasure that we announce the engagements of three members of the staff, for in no case is the lady a complete stranger to us. Miss Anne Wood, to whom we offer our good wishes on her engagement to Mr. Helliwell, was formerly lady-housekeeper at School House, and Miss Enfys Owen, whom we similarly felicitate on her engagement to Mr. Williams, is on the staff of St. Helen's School. We welcome especially the engagement of Miss Healey and Mr. Hillary which will serve to link even more closely the Study and the Masters' Common Room. Good wishes to all concerned!

We are very sorry to say good-bye to Mrs. Snelling, who has become very much a part of the School since her appointment as laboratory assistant in 1955, and we wish her all good fortune.

It was a happy coincidence that the meeting of the O.A.C. Committee at which the keys of the new Pavilion were formally handed over to School should coincide precisely with Mr. Grundy's seventy-fifth birthday: and the opportunity of celebrating this appropriately was not lost. In addition, a telegram of congratulation was sent to him in the name of the School.

As Chairman of the Appeal Committee, the Headmaster presided at the simple ceremony in the Checker Hall on Saturday, 29th September, when the restored roof of the Hall was 'opened' and a suitable tablet unveiled in memory of Miss Agnes Baker.

On Friday, 23rd November, we had the pleasure of entertaining and showing round the School the representatives of the town of Argentan in Normandy, headed by the Deputy-Mayor, who were visiting Abingdon under the 'link' scheme organised by *Le Monde Bilingue*. We hope that as the union between Abingdon and Argentan develops the School will be able to take an increasing part in what promises to be a most fruitful association.

Otherwise we have not had so many visitors from overseas as usual this term, but we have been cheered to receive messages of greeting from many who have visited us in the past. Particularly welcome at a time of international unease have been the warm messages sent to us by our American and German friends.

Once again we record our thanks to the Headmaster of the City of Oxford School for accommodating our half-dozen odd candidates for the December certificate examination.

The number of boys on the School Roll at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term was 482 (Dayboys 295, School House 94, Crescent House 40, Waste Court 34, Larkhill 19).

We congratulate very warmly the four members of the School who secured open awards at Oxford or Cambridge in December. This is a very gratifying record for a school of our size and it will be marked by a half-holiday when a suitable occasion offers. Especial mention must be made of P. M. D. Gray who has won his scholarship before his seventeenth birthday. (Was it one of the Pitts who went up to Cambridge at fourteen and was falsely alleged to have taken his nanny with him?). Details are as follows:—

- W. W. Budden—Senior Scholarship in Geography to St. Edmund Hall, Oxford.
- P. M. D. Gray—Minor Scholarship in Natural Sciences to Queens' College, Cambridge.
- T. M. J. Kempinski—Major Scholarship in Modern Languages to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.
- S. C. Woodley—Exhibition in English to Jesus College, Cambridge.

We congratulate also H. C. Bowen on the award of the Abingdon Exhibition at Pembroke College, Oxford: W. N. R. Stevens on the belated award of a State Scholarship on the GCE results (making a total of five such awards): J. A. Howard on the award of a Dental Board Open Scholarship (to Guy's Hospital): M. G. Nichol on the award of the Sixth Form Scholarship (known *pro hac vice* as the Lady Wantage Scholarship): and T. M. J. Kempinski on the award of an L.C.C. Travelling Scholarship in Modern Languages.

Since the publication of the main list in our last issue we have heard of three more Berkshire Major Awards. We congratulate the recipients—

G. R. H. Slack (to Northampton Engineering College, London); J. E. Greenaway (to Swanley Agricultural Institute); and R. W. Westcott (to Pembroke College, Oxford).

Congratulations also to S. H. Freedman on passing Grade VII (Advanced) and to D. Wiggins on passing Grade V (Theory) of the Music Examinations: and to K. N. Haarhoff on writing the best essay from this School for the Royal Lifeboat Institution's Competition.

The terrible events in Hungary prompted the Mayor of Abingdon to institute a Refugee Relief Fund, to which the School contributed. Apart from a few unsolicited (but welcome) contributions from parents, amounting to £7 10s., all the School's contributions came from 'inside'. Corporate donations were made by the Masters' Common Room, the C.C.F., the Scout Troop, the Tuck Shop, the Philatelic Society, and School House. The Athletic Houses made themselves responsible for the collection of individual offerings, and Bennett House led with a total of £15 13s. 4½d., though the others were not far behind.

It should be emphasized that the main bulk of the School's contributions came from individual offerings. Especial credit is due to those who made and sold flags, conducted auctions, organized raffles, or arranged the splendid entertainment. The total cheque sent to the Mayor amounted to £181 6s. 2d.

The 4th October saw the visit by a party of boys to a demonstration of Civil Defence Work. A valuable insight into an essential part of the country's security.

On the 16th October there was a careers talk to senior boys given by Mr. C. J. Hayes, one of Her Majesty's Civil Service Commissioners.

Parents' Evening was held on 18th October for parents of boys who have entered the School since January, 1956.

A number of boys attended a Friends of Abingdon Lecture on 26th October given by Mr. Gilyard-Beer of the Ministry of Works. His subject, "Abingdon County Hall", was of special interest in view of the recent renovation of that building; and the lecture was illustrated by unusually good slides.

November 8th saw a visit by some fourth formers to the Exhibition organized by the Leather Institute in the County Hall. There they saw not only some of the latest designs in leather goods, but also some interesting 'museum pieces'.

Remembrance Sunday was on 11th November, and in accordance with tradition the Band and a large contingent from the C.C.F. were on parade. The buglers and a guard of honour from the School were again privileged to take part in the simple but moving ceremony round the cenotaph. Later, the buglers, J. M. Mobbs and I. A. Oliver, played in a similar service at Sutton Courtenay.

On the 16th November members of the five School Fifteens went to see the match between Oxford University and Major Stanley's XV.

On November 29th the Ruridecanal Conference was held in Lacies Court.

A party went to see Abingdon Drama Club's Production of "The River Line" in the Corn Exchange on 30th November.

On the same evening, a delightful dance was held by the young ladies of St. Helens. Those who were invited to it enjoyed it very much, especially as it offered them the chance of mixing also with their opposite numbers from Radley College. Thank you very much, St. Helen's!

A small party of Sixth Form Chemists paid a strictly business visit to that popular venue, Morland's Brewery, on 11th December. A few days later, some boys from the Photographic Society had the opportunity, thanks to the kindness of Michael Sale (O.A.), of going round the Bray Studios at Maidenhead.

The Prefects' Dance on 17th December was held at the Church Hall, the decoration of which again did great credit to the organisers. Mr. Eric Potter's Band was delightful, though a Jazz Band from the School which played in the interval made a gallant attempt to emulate its standard. Many thanks to all who made the evening so successful.

We live in an age of inoculation and vaccination. All our thirteen-year-olds, boarders and dayboys alike, are now immunised against tuberculosis by the County Medical Authorities unless they 'contract out'. For the boarders the School Doctor has in addition arranged a similar immunisation against tetanus. It is worthy of note that there are very few parents who have decided not to take advantage of these opportunities.

Nature-lovers will be interested to hear that a weasel was recently seen gambolling on the School Gravel, and subsequently on the steps of the Science Block, before scurrying across the Upper Field.

We can confirm that a letter recently reached the Headmaster from a Government Department addressed to J. A. Caliban, Esq. It was quite a different Department which recently gave him the description "Headmaster, Rogue's School, Abingdon" Ah, well . . .

The Play-Reading Society had a busy term, the following plays being read: 'Lady Precious Stream' (Hsuing), 'Now, Barabbas' (Chetham-Strode), 'George and Margaret' (Savory), and 'Badger's Green' (Sherriff).

We wish good luck to all those who have taken on holiday jobs, especially the Postal Workers; and also to J. A. T. Saywell and J. A. Sheard, who are on a Young Athletes' Course at the University of London Track, at Motspur Park, Surrey.

Saturday lectures during the term were as follows:

September 22nd—Superintendent Tom Fallon, M.B.E., B.E.M., on "Whitehall 1212, 999, and All That".

October 27th—Mr. Donald Grant, M.A., F.R.G.S., on "Canadian Travelogue" (with slides).

December 8th—Mr. Adrian Seligman on "The Greek Islands in Peace and War" (with slides).

Feature films shown were 'Above us the Waves', 'The Final Test', and 'A Run for your Money'.

An innovation during the coming term will be a House Music Competition, to be held on Saturday, 23rd March. Dr. Bernard Rose, M.A., D.Mus., F.R.C.O., has very kindly agreed to adjudicate.

Founder's Day will be on Saturday, 27th July, 1957.

The photographs in this issue are by kind courtesy of Mr. Milligan (the First XV): the Editor of the North Berks Herald and Mr. C. D. Bingham (H.M. the Queen): The Friends of Abingdon (the County Hall): and Mr. L. C. J. Griffin (the new pavilions).

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of magazines from the following schools (to 19th December): Aldenham; Bloxham; Chigwell; City of Oxford; Henley; Magdalen College; Radley College; Reading; R.G.S. High Wycombe; St. Bartholomew's, Newbury; St. Edward's, Oxford; Solihull; Southfield; and also from R.N.C. Dartmouth; R.N.E.C. Manadon and R.M.A. Sandhurst.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL

(A note by the Headmaster)

The main portion of the New Teaching Block came into use in September—and very good use we are making of it too! For most periods of the day there have been upwards of 150 boys working in the five rooms of the main wing. The Colonnade Room, to which the honoured name of Tesdale has been transferred, was not completed until the end of the term. This room, with its attractive view down the drive, will be used for sixth form work and here we are experimenting with chairs with writing arms as an alternative to desks or tables. Here too are hung the two pictures which have been presented by the parents of a couple of boys who left in July. Next term, when the Masters' Changing Room is brought into use, the whole block will be completed and will be ready for the official (and slightly belated) opening ceremony next Founder's Day.

By then, too, we hope that the new Science Extension—a project which we could never have undertaken but for the generous and far-

sighted support of the Industrial Fund for the Advancement of Scientific Education in Schools—will also have been completed. Thanks to the untiring efforts of the School Architect and the ready co-operation of the contractors the usual preliminaries were streamlined and construction started as planned in September. The walls are now almost up to roof level and we hope that the brickwork will be finished before serious frost intervenes. It is heartening to know that the provision of this additional accommodation will enable us to cope with the big increase in the number of boys in the Science Sixth which we must expect in the near future. We are deeply grateful to the Industrial Fund; grateful too to the Shell Laboratories, who have very kindly made available for us, for the mere cost of carriage, surplus laboratory equipment to the value of some hundreds of pounds. This is particularly welcome as the proper equipment of the laboratories will strain our resources to the uttermost; and indeed we may very well have to wait for certain items which are not functionally essential.

Photographs of both Pavilions will be found elsewhere in this issue. The main fabric of the Pavilion on the War Memorial Field was erected with astonishing speed during the summer holidays. The keys of the completed building were handed over to the School at a meeting of the O.A.C. Committee on 13th November. I have heard uniformly favourable comment on the appearance of the Pavilion from the road. Those of us who have explored the inside know how useful it is going to be to the School. I do feel that in undertaking to present this Pavilion the Old Boys have provided an outstanding example of generosity. I use this word in its full meaning for I know that many of those who responded so liberally to the appeal felt some natural pangs at the thought that the bulk of the first eleven matches were being transferred from the time-honoured pitch on Upper Field where they themselves had played. But I hope that they will all now be able to take pride in the New Pavilion and in the successes which the First Eleven will gain on the new field.

The old Wantage Room, transmogrified, now provides a Headmaster's Study which befits the dignity, I will not say of the Headmaster, but of the School. The Bursar has moved to the small office vacated next door. The Bursar's old room, suitably redecorated and renamed the Inner Office, will provide a very useful retiring room for members of the administrative or teaching staff who want to do a job in peace. During the present holidays this particular project has been completed by the entire redecoration of the main office which has for long looked so dingy. Meanwhile the builders are hard at work up above transforming the old Tesdale Room into a second Masters' Common Room. This territorial expansion sounds almost like colonialism (whatever that may be); but it has to be remembered that the staff has more than doubled in the last eight years and *lebensraum* that was adequate in 1948 has become more and more constricted. *Vide* the cruelly truthful scenes of *Life Behind the Closed Door* in one of the School films.

Minor works in hand at the moment include the decoration of the Very Old Bursary (a small dormitory in the School House) and of the Art Room Annexe. Mention should be made too of the transformation that redecoration has effected in the entrance hall of Waste Court.

And for the future? Well, if a rich benefactor were to present the School with quarter of a million pounds we might then be able to think in terms of new assembly hall, boarding house, chapel. But unless or until such a benefactor appears (in other words, things being as they are) we have to be more modest in our plans. I hope, however, that it is not too long before the Governors are able to undertake the contract of the new sanitation block which is so urgently needed.

We have to think not only of the buildings but of the grounds. Here the problem is more simple for much of the work can be done, though gradually, by our own labour. The construction of the new teaching block means that all the area surrounding it has to be laid out afresh. The Governors have approved in principle a plan, largely prepared by Mr. Talbot, which has two main ends in view—to give the impressive south front of the new block a proper 'setting' at the head of the main drive, and to incorporate the Jekyll Garden into the main School property—so that it looks West instead of East, in fact—and to make of it a pleasant 'sitting-out place' for boys and staff. At the same time the whole of the southern part of the stone wall will be lowered to about half its present height so that we shall be able to look across the vegetable garden to the orchard that is growing beyond it. The gap that at present shows in the wall is not a 'pilot project' but the result of natural decay; it indicates that in any case we could not just leave the wall as it is.

A rather less important problem concerns the purlieus of the new pavilion. It is planned to plant a row of lime trees along the southern boundary of the Memorial Field: to put some flowering shrubs and trees into the South-east corner, behind the pavilion; and to turn the spare land between Larkhill Garden and the road into a small car park.

* * *

And now, if I may, I should like once again to use this as the only possible means of thanking the many parents, friends and boys (past and present)—over 600 of them in all—whose cards did so much to cheer our Christmas. My wife and I appreciated them immensely. Those from Old Boys we shall display in the School at the beginning of the term so that everybody may share in their good wishes. The remainder have already been despatched to a large infants' school in a northern industrial town where they will begin a new and useful life. Thank you one and all for remembering us in this way. We are truly grateful.

Perhaps also, without trespassing too outrageously into the Editor's province, I can add two things. I should be more (or less) than human if I could conceal the pleasure with which I heard at the end of term of our four open awards at Oxford and Cambridge. These, with our five state scholarships, provide welcome evidence that our Sixth Forms are improving in quality as well as in numbers. And secondly, I should like to add my own word of welcome to the inspectors who are visiting us at the end of March. The Ministry is paying us the compliment of sending down a very strong team. We have already had the pleasure of meeting the chief inspector, Mr. Pritchard. We know we shall have much to learn from him and from his colleagues. We know too that it is going to be a very strenuous week for them. But we hope that it will be an enjoyable week and that they will take away with them pleasant memories of their visit to Abingdon.

J.M.C.

CHAPEL NOTES

On the Second Sunday in Advent, 9th December, the Bishop of Oxford conducted a Service of Confirmation in the School Chapel. The confirmed were: A. E. Auchinvole, R. J. C. Bampton, R. W. J. Bampton, T. J. Barrett, L. M. Beadle, R. Bingham, R. F. Booth, P. W. P. Briten, M. E. Carpenter, M. G. Chambers, M. R. Corps, M. P. Cross, G. C. Crow, A. G. Dillabough, G. J. Emerton, D. R. M. Evans, E. C. R. Evans, J. B. Friend, G. G. Ganf, D. R. Gerring, B. D. Gibbs, I. P. Graham, A. P. Cresswell, K. N. Haarhoff, M. P. M. Hart, R. G. Havelock, D. P. Heather-Hayes, A. M. Hedges, P. L. Hedges, A. Henbest, T. P. Henson, R. J. L. Hewison, G. S. Howlett, C. T. Johnson, R. J. Keen, G. L. Kent, A. J. C. Lansdown, J. A. Longworth, R. M. Mackintosh, A. G. D. Matson, P. A. Merriman, J. M. Milne, M. O. Moge, H. W. Moorshead, M. J. Neilan, D. F. Perkins, R. S. Pitt, P. J. Plunkett-Cole, A. W. Potter, J. W. Pritchard, K. J. Pulley, C. T. A. Purrett, D. W. G. Riddick, T. A. Sewry, M. J. Seymour, R. S. B. Shepard, G. Sheppard, R. D. Sladden, R. W. Slater, D. M. Taylor, and P. J. V. Willis: and also Mary Cobban.

After the Service the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban entertained the 61 boys and their parents to tea in the Gymnasium.

On 1st October a Conference was held for members of the Sixth Forms of this School and of St. Helen's to discuss 'Careers Overseas', with especial reference to Christian vocation. The introductory speakers were Miss Marjorie Stewart and Sir John Shaw, formerly Governor and C.-in-C. of Trinidad and Tobago.

Our own Harvest Festival, now an annual event, was celebrated on 6th and 7th October, while on the 15th the customary service of Holy Communion in memory of the birth of John Blacknall was held in St. Nicolas' Church.

On Advent Sunday, 2nd December, the Choir sang parts of Bach's Christmas Oratorio in place of the usual evening service. A short report follows at the end of these notes, and also a report on the Service of Lessons and Carols. For these we are grateful respectively to Mr. C. S. W. King, M.A., and to Mr. H. H. Fowler, A.R.C.O.

We are very grateful to those who came to preach in Chapel during the past term. During the Lent Term we look forward to hearing the following outside preachers:

January 20th—Rev. M. H. Jelbert, of the Abingdon Trinity Methodist Church.

February 17th—E. R. Tucker, Esq., M.A., J.P., Headmaster of the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe.

March 10th—H. G. Mullens, Esq., M.A., Headmaster of Lord Williams's School, Thame.

March 31st—Rev. W. B. Littlechild, Vicar of Sutton Courtenay.

The collections for the British Legion over the weekend of Remembrance Sunday amounted to £9 19s. 11d. (a pity that someone did not put an extra penny into the tins—by the time we learned of the result it was too late!). In addition the proceeds of the alms box during the first half of the term went a long way to cover the cost of the two poppy wreaths for the Memorial Tablets. The collection at the Service of Lessons and Carols, amounting to £14 0s. 6d., was divided equally between St. Helen's Church Funds and the Church of England Children's Society. The latter charity benefited also from the collections made by the Brass Band and by the carol parties during their comprehensive tours of the town on the evening of Sunday, 16th December, amounting to £3 10s.; and from the contents of the alms box during the second half of the term (£2 2s. 8d.).

Other collections allotted to outside charities were as follows: The Bishop's List of the Diocese of Oxford £11 6s. 6d.; The Hostel of God £6 15s. 6d.; C.M.S. £4 15s. 6d.; and King George's Fund for Sailors £4 6s. 3d.

This term saw the institution of a School Service, held in St. Helen's Church on the morning of Wednesday, 26th September. We are grateful to Rev. G. Hubbard for giving the address in the absence of the Vicar of Abingdon. The form of the service was to some extent experimental and was the subject of subsequent discussion in the Chapel Committee. As a result certain changes will be made in future which should give the service greater impact. Among other things it has been decided that the service shall always be held on the first morning, so this term it will take place at 11.30 a.m. on Friday, 18th January. It should be emphasised that while parents will be welcome visitors this is primarily a 'domestic' service. The real significance of it is that now we have outgrown our Chapel it provides us all, masters and boys alike, with

the only opportunity we have of gathering together in one body as a worshipping community.

The second meeting of the Chapel Council, held on the evening of Monday, 12th November, again provided a forum for frank and useful discussion: and more particularly planned the campaign for the Hungarian Relief Appeal which (as reported elsewhere) proved so triumphantly successful.

The Christmas Oratorio

All those who took part in the performance of The Christmas Oratorio on 2nd December, and every one of the visitors and friends who were privileged to be in the Chapel, were richly rewarded.

Here was music of such scale and grandeur, of such splendour and intricacy, created to express the meaning of the most important story in the world. It is a measure of success that one who lacks technical knowledge of music was conscious throughout of the purpose of the Oratorio and greatly moved by the vigour and enthusiasm of the singers. The clear lines of melody shown by the soloists and the atmosphere created by the organ which very beautifully linked up all various parts, but was never dominant, gave intense pleasure. The use of the harpsichord, the flute and the 'cello gave the colour and contrast to the music and called to mind the spirit of Bach's age.

The choir sang well. The blending of so many voices was difficult in a small space and one felt that on occasion only the resiliency and courage of the boys saved them from being completely and entirely submerged. The soloists sang carefully and lovingly the long and difficult recitatives.

This work would have been heard to its best advantage in a larger Chapel. The listener needs to be some distance from the Choir. (The Choir was handicapped by the seating problem, too). The writer avers that the Choir sounded most beautifully of all when he heard them practising from outside the Chapel, for there could the harmonies be fully appreciated.

Now the parents and former pupils must build a larger Chapel!

C. S. W. King.

The Evangelist—G. H. Cooper, Esq.

Counter Tenor—J. J. Horrex, Esq.

The Angel—R. A. Lucas.

Herod/Bass—C. K. D. Cobby.

Flute—J. H. Thewlis.

'Cello—D. Wiggins.

Organ—Rev. F. W. Burgess.

Harpsichord Continuo—E. H. F. Sawbridge, Esq.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was given by the Abingdon School Choir on Tuesday, 18th December in St. Helen's Church before a large and appreciative congregation. The Director of Music (Mr. Sawbridge) is to be congratulated on keeping the standard of School music in such good condition.

Naturally there are bound to be some things which do not come off as well as others. In the processional hymn (Once in Royal David's City) I should have liked the solo verse, sung very nicely, to have been followed by two choir verses before the congregation came in; as it was the entry of the congregation was very ragged.

"Ding Dong Merrily on High" was sung with great animation, though the runs in the refrain were a little hurried by the Trebles.

"The Noble Stem of Jesse", a most lovely carol, was well sung and the balance was maintained throughout.

"A Virgin Most Pure" was a little disappointing. I felt if the choir had sung it a half-tone higher it would have sounded much brighter.

The lovely Recitative and Chorale from the Christmas Oratorio was very well sung, and the Tenor recitative was beautifully given. Tschaikovsky's "Crown of Roses" is I think difficult to render. It needs atmosphere, especially in the middle section, and I felt the Choir did not quite get hold of this, altho' it was on the whole a good effort.

Congratulations to all concerned. Abingdon School can be proud of its music (chorally and instrumentally) and has proved itself an asset to the Town.

H.H.F.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Introit	Once in Royal David's City	Congregation
	Bidding Prayer	
Lesson 1	God's promise to Abraham (Genesis XXII 15-18)	
	A new boy (P. R. F. Morgan)	
Carol	Ding, dong! merrily on high	Choir
Lesson 2	Isaiah foretells the Prince of Peace (Isaiah IX 2, 6, 7)	
	A chorister (A. G. D. Matson)	
Carol	The Noble Stem of Jesse	Choir
Lesson 3	The Saviour is promised (Jeremiah XXIII 5-8)	
	Head of Boarders (J. C. Spinks)	
Hymn	Angels from the realms of glory	Congregation

- Lesson 4 Micah foretells the Messiah's Birth in Bethlehem
(Micah V 2, 3, 4) *Head of School (B. L. Smith)*
- Carol A Virgin most pure *Choir*
- Lesson 5 The Annunciation (Luke I 26-33, 38)
A Master (Mr. G. H. Cooper)
- Hymn While shepherds watched *Congregation*
- Lesson 6 The Birth of Jesus (Matthew I 18-23)
A Parent (Mr. H. Loukes)
- Recitative and Chorale from Bach's Christmas Oratorio
Choir
- Lesson 7 The Angels appear to the Shepherds (Luke II 1-20)
The Senior Master (Mr. J. Y. Ingham)
- Hymn It came upon the midnight clear *Congregation*
- Lesson 8 The Adoration of the Magi (Matthew II 1-12)
The Mayor of Abingdon (Councillor C. G. Stow)
- Carol The Crown of Roses *Choir*
- Hymn God rest you merry, gentlemen *Congregation*
- Lesson 9 The Word Eternal (John I 1-14) *The Headmaster*
- Hymn Adeste, fideles *Congregation*

Prayers

The Blessing

VALETE ET SALVETE

Valete—left 31st July, 1956

Upper Sixth Form Arts: G. E. G. Brown, A. G. Caswell, W. St. A. R. Dady, D. G. Dunkley, P. J. A. Fysh, A. J. Gardner, J. M. Iredale, D. J. Langton, D. J. Lanham, I. W. Trenaman, C. S. Woodruff.

Upper Sixth Form Science: R. D. Broad, A. E. Bush, M. B. Culley, M. B. Enser, C. Hiles, J. A. Howard, F. Jeal, I. L. McLoughlin, P. O. Older, M. C. Rallings, M. J. Scott-Taggart, W. N. R. Stevens, R. W. Westcott, W. C. J. White.

Lower Sixth Form: B. R. Smith.

Form Sixth General: C. P. H. Blake, P. G. Davies, G. A. Gingell, L. A. Knight (left 23rd June), M. A. L. Randell (left 28th July).

Form 5 Arts: J. Hasthorpe, C. R. Woodley.

Form 5 Science: M. T. Cook, D. B. Martin, P. M. Watkiss.

Form 5 General: R. A. Beckett, P. Benson, N. T. Brogden, D. C. J. Emmett, A. K. Fletcher (left 20th July), P. J. Greenman, B. C. Jones, N. K. Moseley, C. Parry (left 27th July), P. J. Penney, T. J. Wond, R. H. Young.

Form 4 Arts: D. W. Howard, J. I. Stuart-Lyon.

Form 4 Science: B. M. Lifson.

Form 4 General: R. Doig (left 19th May), P. Maskell (left 14th July),
M. Roberts (left 18th May).

Form 2Y: W. R. Dawson (left 4th April).

Form 1Y: C. G. Stone (left 16th June).

Salvete—came 20th September, 1956

Upper Sixth Form Science: D. I. Southern.

Form 5 Science: I. A. Browning.

Form 5E: T. I. Silvey.

Form 5 Arts: A. G. D. Matson.

Form 4 Science: J. P. G. Butt, E. R. M. Henderson (came 26th
October).

Form 3A: S. R. Long, D. A. Robey, M. J. Stockwell, M. G. Ticehurst,
A. A. Venn, A. P. H. Wood.

Form 3X: I. P. Graham, R. K. Paige.

Form 3Y: J. N. Southern.

Form 2X: R. J. Hutcheon, R. P. Welch.

Form 2Y: D. C. S. Venn, J. A. R. Willis.

Form 1X: G. J. Bailey, M. T. Batt, F. A. Bisby, E. Blaze, J. G. Bowen,
E. N. Broadway, D. R. Brown, I. G. Burns, J. P. Clack, P. Conybear,
J. H. Cook, R. L. Cripps, R. J. Crumly, P. E. Dixon, R. Dowson,
A. J. Elliott, M. J. Evans, F. C. A. Exon, M. A. Faires, H. F. Flint,
I. R. Flint, M. S. Ford, A. W. Foster, H. Foster, A. D. Gardner,
C. T. Cresswell, J. M. Gunn, J. F. Hann, A. S. Harrison, D. J. B.
Hewison, M. C. E. Hodge, D. J. Jessett.

Form 1Y: B. Hounslow, D. S. James, J. R. Jennings, C. E. Kear, M. R.
Kelly, T. J. King, R. M. Kirby, N. D. S. Kortright, K. J. Lay, N. R.
Leach, C. J. Leeson, G. N. J. Lewis, B. G. Mackay, P. R. F. Morgan,
T. J. Mortemore, I. J. Newbold, R. J. Parsons, J. B. Ray, P. M.
Reynolds, M. A. Richardson, A. R. Scott, D. J. Scott, J. Skwierczynski,
D. F. K. Smith, R. A. Smith, M. L. Thorpe, R. B. Topham, I. A.
Walkinshaw, C. J. Westell, A. E. W. Willey, M. E. F. Willey, S. R.
Wilson.

THE RIVALS

A performance of "The Rivals" was given in the Corn Exchange on 13th—15th December. We are very grateful to Sir Reader Bullard for writing the following critique.

It was memories of *The Critic*, performed by Abingdon School some years ago, that persuaded this critic to turn out on a winter's night to see *The Rivals*. He was well rewarded by a spirited performance of a high order given in most attractive settings—a street in Bath, eighteenth-century interiors, a pleasant woodland scene—for which the School owes gratitude to G. H. Cooper and his assistants.

The first actor to come on, John Buckland, as a *coachman*, was authentic in speech and appearance, and if he seemed rather restless we realize that it is no light thing to have to open a play. Or perhaps he was meant to be intimidated by finding how far his old acquaintance *Fag* had gone up in the world. As a gentleman's gentleman, full of impudence and ready lies, George Darroch, as *Fag*, carried off his relatively small but nevertheless important part with great assurance and verve. There are several very small parts indeed, played as usual with cheerful fidelity. One involved nothing but a dozen words, and the receipt of a box on the ear, by Christopher Pickup as an *errand boy*. In the middling parts Mark Rhys as *Lucy*, after some over-acting at first, settled down to a good rendering of cunning and calculation concealed behind a façade of stupidity; and Edward Jouault, as *David*, gave a creditable interpretation of the difficult rôle of a very old man.

Captain Absolute (Peter North) was good in the dialogues with his father, but as a dashing young soldier he might have played his scenes with *Lydia* with a lighter touch, and given more variety to his longer speeches. Roger Scott-Taggart, as *Faulkland*, tiresomely carping at a loyal and affectionate girl, has an ungrateful part, and it was perhaps this that limited his gestures, and prevented his making the most of the entertaining speeches in his first scene.

I do not expect ever to see better amateur performances than those of Jonathan Foster as *Sir Anthony Absolute*, John Saywell as *Mrs. Malaprop*, and Jeremy Kingston as *Sir Lucius O'Trigger*. The stage Irishman is proverbially easy to overact, but Kingston was just right: accent, facial expression, manner—everything. Foster and Saywell, remarkable enough when apart, when together on the stage seem to raise each other nearer and nearer to perfection. Foster, as the patriarchal despot with the chimes at midnight obviously still ringing in his old ears, made every line tell; Saywell fitted without a wrinkle into the part of the silly, self-deceiving woman, making a hurdle-race of the English language and kicking the top bar every time. In the scene where these two repeatedly berate their respective charges and then turn to each

other with party smiles, they raise social humbug to the very monocle of apostasy. If Christopher Wray as Bob Acres is not placed as high as these three it is not that he was not very good, with his excellent rustic voice and dash and genial bluster. The part is difficult, in that it tends to make a farcical rent in the garment of the comedy. It needs to be kept within bounds, whereas Wray went a little beyond them at times and made the judicious grieve.

Finally we come to those devastating charmers: *Julia Melville* (Randell Moll) and *Lydia Languish* (John Kitto). We put Moll first because he had the more difficult part and filled it to perfection. *Julia's* simplicity and dignity in the scenes with *Faulkland* were admirable, and in the longer, formal speeches she attained a very high standard indeed. *Lydia* at the beginning tended to speak upstage and to be inaudible a few rows from the front, though in this respect she came out well at the end. She had many good qualities, notably those which she shared with *Julia*: looks and style. She had however one defect: she was not silly enough. The play turns largely on her beginning as a foolish romantic miss and gradually getting at least a glimpse of good sense. From the trashy novels she reads she gets ideas of conduct which impel her, for instance, to embark upon an artificial quarrel with her lover. Yet Kitto's manner accorded less with this obvious conception of the rôle than with the serious part *Julia* had to play. Surely *Lydia* would languish on a sofa, talk affectedly, and in other ways suggest the feather-pated girl the words she utters indicate.

If we have not been able to give full marks to all the players, virtually all of them had good qualities by no means common. To begin with, they looked natural in their costumes, and they moved well. Several suffered from a fault which, to do them justice, they share with many professional actors: failure to bring out unusual words and phrases with particular clarity. In ordinary speech, if the hearer misses a word he can often guess at it from the words that follow; but if he misses—say, the sinister phrase *small sword light*, it is gone for good. Kingston was in fact one of the clearest speakers, and we quote a phrase of his merely because it makes a forcible illustration. With an occasional lapse, however, the actors all spoke up and spoke clearly; they all knew their parts; and above all they left none of those little gaps between speeches which ruin plays dependent on quick dialogue. The general standard was very high, and for this we must congratulate not only the company, but also, and especially, the producer, L. C. J. Griffin, whose unobtrusive hand was seen in the grouping, with no actor masking another; in the easy sequences; and in the invisible discipline that made the play move smoothly even in the most complicated scenes.

We suggest that the Careers Master need not trouble about the future of Moll and Kitto. They have only to open in Abingdon a finishing school for young ladies to be bombarded with applications.

R. W. Bullard.

RUGBY FOOTBALL, 1956

This has been one of our more successful seasons. The Fifteen has lost only four matches, one of them—the opening game—against an adult team containing three County players, whilst the 'Under 15' Fifteen has had its best season for many years, winning all its matches, mostly by handsome margins.

Many factors, of course, contribute to successful football seasons, but it is no exaggeration to say that fitness and speed were, this season, largely responsible for our victories. The Fifteen, indeed, began the term without much promise of good back play, but by concentrating upon individual fitness and basing tactical play upon the known virtues of Spinks as a kicker and hard-runner, we were able to settle down fairly rapidly. Naturally, the opening matches were experimental, but ultimately we were able to boast an extremely agile and workmanlike pack and outsides who were all, on their day, very good, although mention must be made of the outstanding play of Spinks, most markedly the pivot of the School's threequarter play. One very happy feature has been the number of promising players—Fitzsimons, Peedell, Thistlewood in the backs, Costley, Foden, Scott-Taggart in the forwards—discovered during the season and all still at School next Michaelmas Term!

One final point well worth mentioning—the spirit of the team throughout the season has been most robust and for this, the Captain, Buckland, and the Secretary, Wastie, must be congratulated. Too often, in the past, has a good team suffered from temperamental play, and we hope the example of this year's side will have set the precedent for future seasons.

During the season, the following Colours were awarded:

Full-Colours—Broad, Dimond and Young, C.

Half-Colours—Costley, Fitzsimons, Foden, Robins, Peedell, Scott-Taggart, Thistlewood, Trenaman, Westbrook.

The final arrangement of the Fifteen was as follows:

Dimond; Young, C., Fitzsimons, Spinks, Thistlewood; Peedell, Paige, R. J.; Robins, Candy, Scott-Taggart, Buckland, Wastie, Broad, Costley, Foden.

The following have also played:

Trenaman (13 times), Dunman (7 times), Lees and Westbrook (6 times), Antrobus, N. A. J. and Glenny (twice), Kempinski (once).

D.O.W.

1st XV CHARACTERS

J. T. BUCKLAND (*Captain, Colours 1954*). *Second row forward.*

A very lively and fast, heavy forward, whose individual play has always been extremely good. An enthusiastic captain, whose infectious example has done much to knit the team together. He has been most helpful administratively, too.

(D.O.W.)

G. F. WASTIE (*Secretary, Colours 1955*). *Second row forward.*

A hard working forward, whose play has improved immensely. He has been particularly useful in line-outs and in loose play where his following up has been most effective.

J. C. SPINKS (*Colours, 1955*). *Left Centre.*

He has played consistently well throughout the season. His determined running, hard tackling and excellent kicking, both in attack and defence, have played a large part in a very successful season.

R. J. PAIGE (*Colours, 1955*). *Scrum half.*

His courageous play has often inspired the rest of the team. Passing from the base of the scrum is still somewhat erratic under pressure, but he is a thoroughly reliable player.

G. DIMOND (*Colours, 1956*). *Full back.*

Perhaps our most versatile player, he plays an excellent game at forward and is useful, too, in the centre. As full back he shows plenty of initiative, has a good catch, and a fair sense of positional play. His very intelligent kicking and quick follow up have led to several tries.

W. C. BROAD (*Colours, 1956*). *Wing forward.*

Exceptionally fast, his positional play has been outstanding and his loose play generally very good.

C. YOUNG (*Colours, 1956*). *Wing threequarter.*

Determined and fast, if somewhat light, he has played consistently well in both attack and defence.

P. S. CANDY (*Half-Colours, 1955*). *Hooker.*

As a hooker, he has been as good as ever, but his loose play and tackling have not been as effective as they were last season.

P. E. J. FITZSIMONS (*Half-Colours, 1956*). *Right Centre.*

A very neat player whose handling and kicking have been good. Tackling could be more effective, but nevertheless he promises to be a key player next season.

I. R. PEEDELL (*Half-Colours, 1956*). *Stand-off half.*

He plays with intelligence and improved consistently during the season. His kicking in attack has been excellent, and he can get his line moving quickly. Tackling, although at first shaky, is now quite good.

A. J. FODEN (*Half-Colours, 1956*). *Wing forward.*

A fast and lively forward, who has led the scrum well. On occasions, he has made an effective hooker.

J. B. ROBINS (*Half-Colours, 1956*). *Front row forward.*

A hardworking and competent forward, who has been most effective in the tight and line-out.

A. J. COSTLEY (*Half-Colours, 1956*). *Lock forward.*

A very promising player and already outstanding as a line-out player.

A. W. THISTLEWOOD (*Half-Colours, 1956*). *Wing threequarter.*

A latecomer to the team, but a very good back who promises well for next season.

R. B. SCOTT-TAGGART (*Half-Colours, 1956*). *Front row forward.*

A useful member of the pack, whose play has improved immensely although he is not yet sufficiently effective in the loose.

R. J. TRENAMAN (*Half-Colours, 1956*). *Stand off half.*

His early promise was not maintained towards the end of the season, but on his day he is a competent player. His chief fault is his inability to recover from mistakes, his chief virtue hard tackling.

J.T.B.

FIRST FIFTEEN MATCHES

v. D. O. Willis' XV (h). Wed., 3rd October. Lost 3—23.

The School played somewhat diffidently against a strong and experienced team, which this year contained only three members of the Staff (Mr. Milton, Mr. Williams and Mr. Willis) but had instead a larger proportion of County players as well as club players of repute. The game proved a useful pointer for the future and this fairly heavy defeat did us no harm.

v. Newbury Grammar School (h). Sat., 13th October. Drawn 3—3.

Played in perfect conditions, this game was largely one of fast, open rugby especially in the first half. The School scored an unconverted try through Spinks, to which Newbury replied by a penalty goal. There was some falling away in the standard of play in the second half and Newbury were several times unlucky not to score.

v. Reading School (h). Wed., 17th October. Lost 8—9.

This was an excellent game against strong opposition. Adopting the long kick ahead and quick follow up, the School backs looked considerably more confident. The two scrums were fairly evenly matched in the loose, but the honours of hooking went to Reading who were thereby able to have more of the ball. A miskick towards the end of the second half enabled Reading to snatch victory by one point.

*v. St. Edward's School 2nd XV (h). Wed., 24th October.
Won 12—0.*

Weather conditions for this match were against good handling, and no score came until late in the first half despite the territorial advantage soon gained for the School by persistent attack. The St. Edward's pack was better in the tight scrummages, but the School forwards dominated the loose play and the final result was a fair one. Neither set of backs had much chance to show its paces, and the School success was largely due to intelligent kicking.

v. Solihull School (h). Sat., 27th October. Won 10—6.

In this game, the School pack was dominated, 'though never subdued, by the strong and lively Solihull scrum, and it was largely due to good play by the School threequarters, always supported by their back row forwards, that Solihull were not able to use their forward superiority to greater advantage. As it was, better place kicking enabled the School to win what was a very evenly matched game.

v. Radley College 2nd XV (a). Wed., 31st October. Won 10—0.

Elementary mistakes and a strong wind made the School seem at times very inferior to their opponents, who were the more aggressive side for long periods of the game. Fortunately the School defence was good. The first try came from an orthodox passing movement in which Spinks and Trenaman were prominent and the second from a clever pick up in mid-field followed by another good movement. Dimond converted both tries.

v. Magdalen College School. (a). Wed., 7th November. Won 9—3.

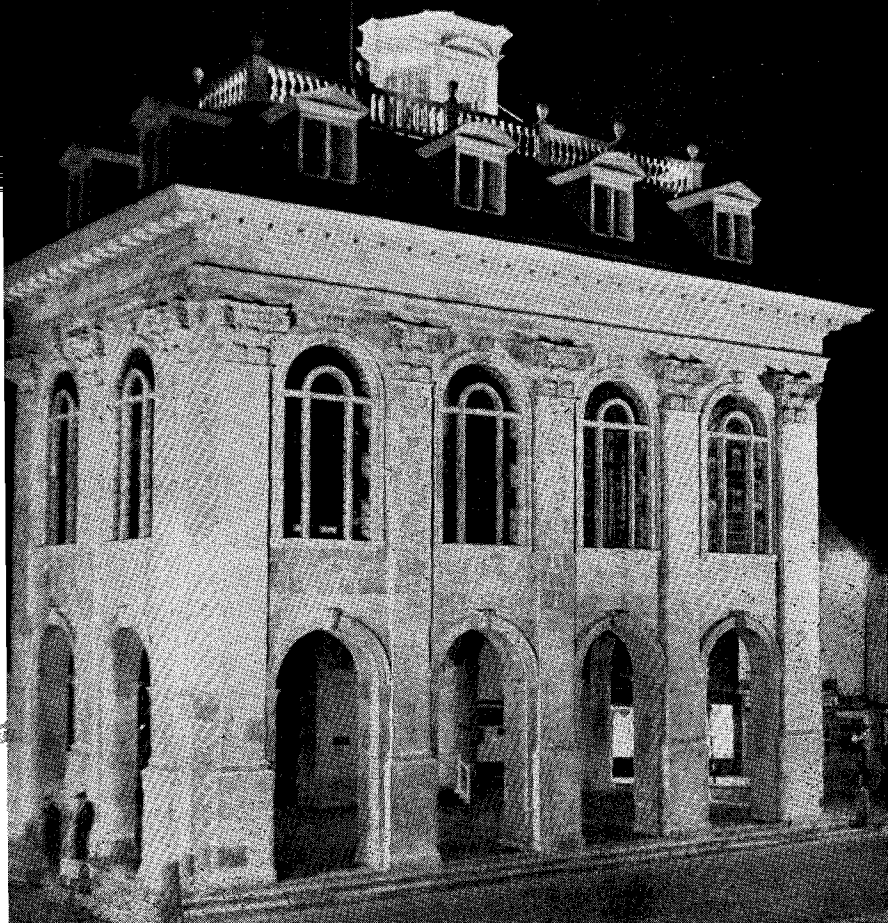
This game, a keen struggle from the kick-off, proved to be a memorable victory, for the School defeated Magdalen on their own ground for the first time in nineteen years. Forwards were evenly matched, but behind the scrum Magdalen found no effective answer to the School's high kicks ahead or nicely judged cross kicks. Our opponents' reliance upon orthodox back play, although it constantly promised to be dangerous, made little headway against determined tackling and covering by the School. At half-time, the School led by 3 points to nil and at this stage, it was anybody's game. But in the second half, victory was assured by two unconverted tries to which Magdalen could only reply by a penalty. It was strange to find a School pack apparently fitter than that of Magdalen, but the School was decidedly on top at the end—a tribute to our more rigorous training this season,



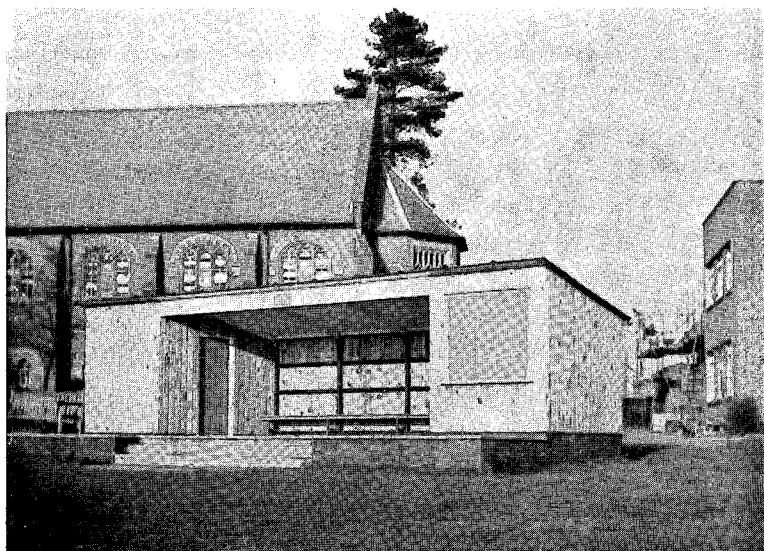
R. J. Trenaman, D. O. Willis, Esq., A. J. Foden, I. R. Peedell, P. E. J. Fitzsimons, A. J. Costley, R. B. Scott-Taggart,
J. B. Robins, A. W. Thistlewood, J. Talbot, Esq., P. S. Candy,
C. Young, W. C. Broad, J. C. Spinks, J. T. Buckland (Capt.), G. F. Wastic, R. J. Paige, G. Dimond.

**H.M. Queen
Elizabeth II
re-opens the
County Hall
2nd November
1956**

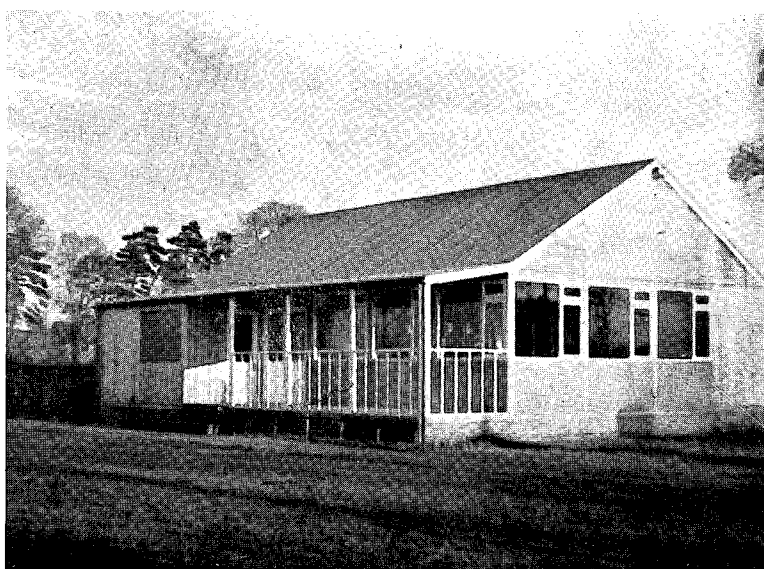




1683—1956



THE 'R-B' PAVILION



THE WAR MEMORIAL PAVILION

v. Bloxham School (a). Sat., 10th November. Won 11—3.

Bad conditions—rain and a very heavy pitch—made this largely a forward battle, in which both teams showed plenty of robust play. The School were perhaps lucky to score first through an interception and again, shortly afterwards, from a chance given by shaky defence on the part of Bloxham. In the second half, Bloxham pressed consistently and were indeed superior to the School in line-outs and much of the loose play. The Bloxham effort, however, came too late.

v. City of Oxford School (h). Wed., 14th November. Won 11—5.

For the first twenty minutes of this game, the School did all the attacking and yet failed to score. Thereafter, C.O.S. gradually came into the picture and, although they only managed to gain one goal, the School's final victory by a goal, a penalty goal and a try was perhaps a little flattering.

v. R.G.S., High Wycombe (h). Sat., 17th November. Lost 5—20.

Injuries to Buckland and Spinks within the first ten minutes of this game meant that thirteen men had to tackle a formidable opposition for most of the match. Quite rightly, R.G.S. showed no mercy and did their best—and a very good best, too—to take every advantage of the situation. As it was they put up a very good score, but they were made to fight hard for it, the School six-man-scrum refusing to be dismayed by the odds against them. Indeed, we came near to scoring on several occasions and take some pride in having scored last—a neat try by Paige, converted by Dimond.

v. Southfield School (a). Wed., 21st November. Won 8—3.

Without Buckland and Spinks, the School put up a somewhat dispirited display against comparatively weak opposition. The forwards allowed the bustling Southfield pack to dictate the play. Southfield scored first and we were lucky to scrape home with a goal and a penalty goal.

v. Windsor County School (a). Sat., 24th November. Lost 8—9.

Buckland was still on the injured list for this match, but this does not excuse the School for another disappointing game. Both forwards and backs showed a lack of determination which Windsor were quick to recognise. Persistent attacks by Windsor gave them a well deserved victory. Such attacks as the School made were almost all broken up by excellent defence by Windsor, whose full back saved a certain try by Spinks in the closing stages of the game.

v. Oratory School (h). Wed., 28th November. Won 12—3.

The School deservedly won this new fixture by a return to their earlier playing standard. There was plenty of movement and altogether it was quite a delightful game to watch. The score of three tries and a penalty goal to a penalty goal might have been even more convincing

had all the opportunities been taken. Oratory's full back had a very good game and made it impossible for the School to exploit the kick ahead. As it was, two of the School tries, from Fitzsimons and Thistlewood, came from orthodox movements, which were most attractive from the spectators' point of view. The School scrum worked well and backed up most intelligently.

v. Old Abingdonians (h). Sat., 1st December. Won 11—0.

Conditions were ideal for this annual match. The Old Boys' team was not as strong as in recent years, but it was heavy and played with admirable zest. In the first half, the Old Boys attacked continuously and tried to use the superior weight of their scrum to force a score. Had they made more use of their backs they might well have scored several times, the School being very much on the defensive. After half-time, however, the greater fitness of the School began to tell and as the School scrum gradually got on top, the School backs came into the picture. Thistlewood scored first on the wing; shortly afterwards Paige dashed over for a blind side try from the scrum, which was converted and finally Dimond kicked a penalty goal. All in all it was an enjoyable game and it was good to see Marshall and Fathers as active as ever in the O.A. scrum.

G.F.W.

SECOND FIFTEEN

The 2nd Fifteen promised to be one of our best at the commencement of the season, but its inevitable use as a chopping block for 1st XV experiments and our reluctance to disturb a comparatively young 3rd XV by promoting its players led to a poor season. Only one match was won, against Radley 3rd XV, but many of the other games provided keen contests and we only went down really heavily in two matches, against a very active Magdalen side and a very good XV at Thame. Many players showed distinct promise. Of the forwards, particular mention should be made of Dunman and Westbrook, both of whom played a number of games for the 1st XV, and Bretscher and Woodward, whilst Phipps at scrum half should make the 1st XV next season without much trouble. Smith, too, has much promise but must develop more vigour.

The final arrangement of the team was: Le Voi (Capt.); Saywell, Maloney, Smith, R.B., Paxman; Glenn, Phipps; Dunman, Exon, P. D., Kibble, B. P., Woodward, Bretscher, M. S., Aitchison, Exon, D. J. Westbrook.

Also played: Thistlewood (6 times), Bragg (5 times), Costley, Gardner, B. P., Redknap (3 times), Hardy, Jouait, Kempinski, Scott-Taggart, Simpson (twice), Antrobus, N. A. J., Lees, Longworth (once).

Results

v. Newbury Grammar School (h), Sat., 13th October.	Lost	3—9
v. Henley Grammar School 1st XV (a), Wed. 24th Oct.	Lost	9—19
v. Solihull School (a), Sat., 27th October.	Lost	3—19
v. Radley College 3rd XV (a), Wed., 31st October.	Won	11—9
v. Magdalen College School (a), Wed., 7th November.	Lost	6—36
v. Thame Grammar School 1st XV (a), Sat., 10th Nov.	Lost	5—35
v. R.G.S., High Wycombe (h), Sat., 17th November.	Lost	8—15
v. Southfield School (a), Wed., 21st November.	Lost	8—16
v. Windsor County School (a), Sat., 24th November.	Lost	14—21

THIRD FIFTEEN

This season's 3rd XV was very largely an 'Under 16' team and, as such, results were quite encouraging. A good spirit was shown by all, and much talent shown—all of which bodes well for next season. Baldwin played well at full back, Simpson and Longworth in the backs, and Darroch, Morris, Redknap and Jouault in the forwards

The team was as follows: Baldwin; Hardy, Simpson, Womar, Nichol; Longworth, Denniford; Darroch, Jouault, Stacey (Capt.), Redknap, Gardner, B. P., Morris, Hampson, Cork.

Also played: Aitchison, Maloney, Paxman (3 times), Kibble, P. D., Exon, D. J., Phipps (twice), Exon, P. D., Nichol, Smith, R. B., Thistlewood (once).

Results

v. Newbury Grammar School (a), Sat., 13th October.	Lost	8—19
v. Reading School (a), Wed., 17th October.	Lost	6—17
v. Radley College 4th XV (h), Wed., 31st October.	Lost	3—14
v. Magdalen College School (h), Wed., 7th November.	Won	11—3
v. City of Oxford School (a), Wed., 14th November	Won	13—3

'UNDER 15' FIFTEEN

This has been perhaps the most outstanding Colts team we have ever had. The record of all matches won is rendered more spectacular when we mention that points scored amounted to 201 as against a mere 34 by our opponents. Much of this success was undoubtedly due to the captain, Ford, whose play at centre has been in general truly excellent. Nonetheless, without support a 'star' player can do little and the whole team has given of its best throughout the season. It is in the circumstances almost invidious to mention names, but perhaps the

following deserve special commendation: Milne (full back), Kent (hooker) and Kandiah (wing forward).

The team was as follows: Milne; Johnson, C. T., Tuck, Ford, P. J., Corps; Utin, Cross; Lewis, Kent, Wyatt, Campbell, Hamilton, Kandiah, Farrington, Kingston.

Also played: Morgan, T. I. (4 times), Barrett, Ganf (once).

Results

v. Newbury Grammar School (a), Sat., 13th October.	Won 14—9
v. Reading School (h), Wed., 17th October.	Won 24—0
v. Southfield School (h), Sat., 20th October.	Won 27—3
v. Henley Grammar School (a), 24th October	Won 24—0
v. Solihull School (h), Sat., 27th October.	Won 15—14
v. Thame Grammar School (h), Sat., 10th November.	Won 50—0
v. Magdalen College School (a), Wed., 21st November.	Won 8—0
v. Stoneham School (a), Sat., 24th November.	Won 16—8
v. City of Oxford School (h), Wed., 28th November.	Won 23—0

The match against Stoneham School, originally an 'Under 14' fixture, contained several members of the U/14 team.

'UNDER 14' FIFTEEN

The junior side has again been a very useful team and in spite of a heavy defeat by Solihull, partly explained by the long coach journey, shows every promise of continuing so next season. Without a doubt, the captain, Ganf, has been the outstanding player in the team: equally good in the scrum or as a threequarter, he is a player of very great promise. He has been well supported by the whole team and especially by Long at full back, the two halves, Riddick and Allison, and of the forwards by Stockwell, Haarhoff and the Bampton twins.

The final arrangement of the team was as follows: Long; Hedges, P. L., Carpenter, Ganf, Robey; Riddick, Allison; Mackenzie, A. J., Goodwin, Stockwell, Haarhoff, Bickers, Hurd, Henson, M. K., Bampton, R. W. J.

Also played: Hart (4 times), Bampton, R. J. C., Matson, Parker (3 times).

Results

v. Reading School (a), Wed., 17th October.	Won 20—11
v. Solihull School (a), Sat., 27th October.	Lost 6—31
v. Bloxham School (a), Sat., 10th November.	Lost 0—8
v. Magdalen College School (a), Wed., 21st November.	Won 33—3
v. City of Oxford School (h), Wed., 28th November.	Won 12—8

* * *

During the Christmas vacation, a number of boys played in both the senior and junior County Schoolboys' Trials on Friday, 21st December

at Reading. Buckland, Wastie, Spinks and Dimond played in the Senior trial, whilst Ford, Milne, Kent, Campbell, Hamilton, and Ganf played in the Junior game. Subsequently, Buckland played for the County senior side against Oxford and against a combined Wilts and Dorset team. Both games were victories for Berkshire. Of the juniors, Ford and Ganf played for an all conquering Berkshire 'Under 15' side, helping to defeat Oxfordshire (11—0), Sussex (35—0) and Surrey (32—0). Later both played for a combined Oxford-Berks-Sussex team against the London Home Counties. As a result of this game, Ganf was chosen as reserve for the Regional Trial in February.

R. B. Smith also played for a County 'Under 16' XV against Reading Schools.

D.O.W.

HOUSE MATCHES

The Inter-House knock-out competitions provided keen rugby, the senior games especially being marked by some excellent play. In the junior competition for the Robinson Cup, Bennett disposed of Tesdale fairly easily by 18 points to nil and Reeves gained a most convincing win of 22—0 over Blacknall. The final, on 11th November, saw Reeves defeat Bennett in an exciting game by 18 points to 9. It is noteworthy that owing to the reorganisation of the Athletic Houses this term this junior knock-out competition was an 'Under 14' contest and not, as in previous years, an 'Under 15' contest.

The senior competition revealed the superiority of Bennett House. After defeating Tesdale comfortably (25—9), Bennett played off the final for the Lin Cup against Reeves, who had earlier scored a narrow victory (8—6) over Blacknall. Bennett's score of 17 points to Reeves' six was only gained after a stern struggle in which the heavy Bennett pack eventually wore down their opponents. The match was played on 8th December.

As a conclusion to the season's football, a small Seven-a-Side contest was organized for the last Monday of term, 17th December. Two 'Sevens', consisting of dayboys, played against each other and the winning team then played a 'Seven' drawn from School House. The School House team won (6—0) after an exciting game. It is hoped to repeat this contest on a more elaborate scale next season.

The 'Under 14' League, played mainly on Wednesday afternoons throughout the term, was again a great success. Reeves House proved worthy winners and are to be congratulated upon the effectiveness of their play in the concluding matches. The League results are summarised as under:

Reeves House:	Won 6; Lost 0; Points 12
Bennett House:	Won 3; Lost 3; Points 6
Tesdale House:	Won 2; Lost 4; Points 4
Blacknall House:	Won 1; Lost 5; Points 2

D.O.W.

INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

The annual races were held on the afternoon of Wednesday, 12th December. Conditions were most unpleasant, there being a cold wind and rain: the junior race indeed finished in such a heavy downpour that the judges found it difficult to record names as the competitors came in. Finishing times in both races were in the circumstances quite good. Competition was encouragingly keen. The Cross Country Cup was won by Tesdale House whilst individual winners were Booth in the junior and Bretscher, M. S. in the senior event. The Captain of Cross Country (H. C. Bowen) was unable to run as he was absent taking an examination at Cambridge.

Details of the House competitions were as follows:

Senior: Tesdale 388 points; Blacknall 311; Bennett 304; Reeves 281.

Junior: Reeves 104 points; Tesdale 76; Blacknall 70; Bennett 53.

The over-all winner was Tesdale House with 464 points, Reeves House being runners-up with 385 points.

Those gaining points in the senior race numbered 59, of whom the first twenty home were: Bretscher, M. S. (19 mins. 28.6 secs.), Proudman, Sheard, Nichol, Scott-Taggart, Harvey, R. W., Fitzsimons, Davis, P. R., Becker, Exon, P. D., Mobbs, Cross, Kirby, Wyatt, Marchbanks, C. J., Eke, Young, C., Woodward, Johnson, C. T., and Smith, B. L.

Those gaining points in the junior race were 27 in number, of whom the first ten home were: Booth (12 mins. 6.6 secs.), Bretscher, P. A., Ganf, Hossent, Neilan, Haarhoff, Henson, M. K., Riddick, Bampton, R. J. C., and Robey.

D.O.W.

THE VISIT OF H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II

On Friday, 2nd November, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited the Borough of Abingdon to reopen the restored County Hall. This crowning event to the Quatercentenary celebrations was an historic occasion, which will be long remembered by borough citizens. It was made even more memorable so far as the schools of the borough were concerned by the fact that Her Majesty was routed along Park Road and Conduit Road on her journey from the railway station to the County Hall. Kindly thought by the borough officials had reserved the pavements of these two roads to Abingdon schoolchildren so that all were able to obtain a clear view of the Queen as the Royal Procession passed by.

It is pleasant to know that Her Majesty drove past the School and to imagine that, in spite of the sight and sound of cheering children, she must have noticed the main School buildings over the heads of our own boys lined up in front of Upper Field. The School flag was, of

course, flying from Main School whilst on the top of the Science Block the flags of the Commonwealth countries must have made quite a brave show.

The Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban, Mr. Ingham and the Captain of the School had reserved seats in the Square from which they were able to watch the re-opening ceremony, and both they and the rest of us, in Park Road, were wholly captivated by the charming dignity of Her Majesty. The School was honoured, too, to provide a contingent of the C.C.F. to line the royal route both in the morning for the Queen's arrival and again in the afternoon for her departure. In addition, the School Band played in Park Road, other members of the Corps had the privilege of hoisting the Royal Standard in the Roysse Court and the Borough flag on the County Hall, and representatives of the Scouts helped to sell official programmes in the town.

The School also took part in a number of functions that followed Her Majesty's visit. On the evening of 16th November and again on the afternoon and evening of 17th November, we repeated in the Corn Exchange the scenes previously mimed from the history of the School in the Pageant held in June. Later, on 24th November, Charter Anniversary Day, we were represented at the traditional bun throwing ceremony and in the evening a large contingent saw the excellent fireworks display laid on by the Borough in the Abbey Meadows. On Sunday, 25th November, representatives of Staff and boys attended the United Thanksgiving Service held in St. Helen's Church, which closed the celebrations.

D.O.W.

COMBINED CADET FORCE

This year the Corps has again grown that little bit more, to a total of 300 O.R.'s—despite a few regrettable (and regretted) resignations. The intake, of 72, has been only just above normal. The 'outflow' of Senior ranks, at the end of the summer term, was substantially less than this, perhaps because a number of cadets have reached full NCO rank at a comparatively early age.

At the beginning of term, the revived Signal Section was working very effectively under C.S.M. Lonergan, of Oxford University O.T.C. Unhappily, this arrangement, which we had hoped would be permanent, came to an end with the opening of the University term, owing to pressure of work there. Thereafter, the Section had to work unassisted, and has carried on creditably under the command and instruction of Sgt. Broadway.

Field Day was held in fine weather and with some success, on 9th October, the Signals and R.A. Section training independently, and the R.E. Section visiting the home of their sponsors, the School of Military Survey. A special parade was held on 2nd November, on the occasion of the Queen's visit to Abingdon: 100 senior cadets provided a route-lining party, in front of the School when Her Majesty arrived in the morning, and in 'Town Centre' for her departure after lunch. In addition, 4 cadets provided two flag-breaking parties, one near the Guildhall where the Queen lunched, the other on the top of the County Hall, from which point of vantage they were able to take part in the traditional ceremony of bun-throwing. We took our usual prominent part in the parade a week later on Remembrance Day, providing, besides the largest contingent on parade, Band, Buglers and Guard of Honour. The performance put up by both these last, under command of Lt. Helliwell, was, we think, well up to the standard we have set ourselves, and maintained, over the past five years. In a quite different way we took our share in coming to the aid of the Hungarians, with a corporate contribution to the Relief Fund.

Less fortunately, we are this year un-making history, in that it has not been possible, owing to Service commitments, to arrange our traditional 'Christmas Course' at S.A.S., R.M. It is hoped, however, that we can be fitted in during the Easter vac. As things stand, 'coursing' is thin indeed—one cadet on a W.T. & Drill Course at District H.Q., and one on an R.A. Course at Mons O.C.S., these being the only vacancies we could secure.

During term, the following promotions were made:

To C.S.M.—J. B. Robins.

To C.Q.M.S.—N. K. Hammond, M. G. Nichol, G. F. Wastie.

To Sgt.—W. W. Budden, M. Q. King, B. Westbrook.

S.C.P.

ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

The highlight of the term was the visit of Her Majesty the Queen, when several members of the Section had the honour to line the Royal route. We were also represented by a small contingent at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

In other respects the term was not an exciting one, being mainly concerned with working towards the Proficiency Tests, which were held towards the end of term. We are grateful to Lieutenant Commander N. J. Parker who came all the way from Gosport in very bad weather to examine our three candidates for Petty Officer. We are glad to record that two of them, L/S Saywell and L/S Phillips were successful.

Early in the term we spent a very interesting and instructive day at the Royal Naval Air Station at Lee-on-Solent, which was arranged for

us by our good friend Lieutenant Commander K. W. Cobley, and we are very grateful to him for his help.

The following promotions have taken place this term:

To Petty Officer—L/S Kennedy and L/S Meakins.

To Leading Seaman—A. B. Saywell, A. B. Grosvenor and A. B. Privett.

L.C.J.G.

SCOUTS

After the bustle of summer, this has been a quiet term. We welcome a contingent of new boys, and we hope that all those who have passed on to the Corps will lend us a helping hand occasionally.

Field Day at Youlbury and the Remembrance Day passed off as usual. On the visit of H.M. The Queen, scouts were responsible for the selling of the souvenir programme and here the troop played its full part. Later a party saw the film of the 1955 Canadian Jamboree when it was shown in the Church Hall.

Next term sees the beginning of the Golden Jubilee Year of Scouting in which the troop hopes to take a full part.

M.N.W.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

We offer our sincere thanks to our numerous benefactors: for Leaving Books to W. St. A. R. Dady (*French Impressionists*), P. G. Davies (*Story of British Industry*), D. G. Dunkley (*Reflections on Hanging*), D. J. Langton (*Agricola and Roman Britain*), R. E. J. Packer (*Piston's Harmony and Everyday Life in Bible Times*), W. N. R. Stevens (*Encyclopaedia of Chemistry*). To H. B. Healey, O.A. for the first volume of Churchill's *History of the English Speaking Peoples*; to Major Buckley for Marquand's *30 Years*; to Messrs. Hamish Hamilton for *Majority Anthology*; to Mrs. D. B. Green for *The Countryman*; to W. H. Stevens, O.A. for *United Empire* and to W. A. Rudd for the *Geographical Journal*.

G.F.D.

SCHOOL SOCIETIES ROY SSE SOCIETY

At the first meeting of the term, on Wednesday, 17th October, the Headmaster welcomed twelve new members to the Society. One of the senior members, S. C. Woodley, then read an excellent paper entitled 'The Blank Day'. The speaker stressed the need for individuality and the importance of the creative minority, deplored the supremacy of the machine and the collective, and advanced his own philosophical theories, which provoked spirited discussion.

On the 31st October, B. L. Smith read a paper entitled 'Conquest of Pain'. The speaker dealt with the growth of surgery and the subsequent development of anaesthesia. The paper was illustrated by fascinating but depressing stories of how owing to spite, negligence, and professional pride, the discovery of such anaesthetics as ether and chloroform had not led to their immediate and general application in surgery. The ensuing discussion centred on trépanning and the horrors of the knife.

At our final meeting, on 28th November, the society heard an extremely lucid and thoughtful paper on 'Propaganda'. The speaker, N. K. Hammond, dealt comprehensively with the history, modern application and possible future development of propaganda, and its effect not only as an instrument of war but also as a means of indoctrinating the young. The discussion which followed was vehement but irrelevant, the chief topic being the Middle East crisis. Feelings ran high, and it is interesting to record that there was a fairly-balanced division of opinion, both among boys and Staff.

The society must again thank the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban for their continued kind hospitality throughout the past term.

B.D.W.

TURNOR SOCIETY

At the Annual General Meeting, held on 28th September, the following officers were elected: President—the Headmaster; Chairman—J. B. Robins; Secretary—N. K. Hammond; Committee—Mr. Willis, A. T. Aitchison, M. J. Blythe, C. M. Dunman.

During the term, four meetings were held. At the first, an 'Any Questions' panel of five well-informed senior members confidently, and we hope accurately, answered questions covering a wide variety of topics, whilst at the following meeting, C. M. Dunman showed some excellent colour slides of French chateaux and mountainous scenery in Western Ireland. Our third meeting was held on 23rd Nov. when Mr. T. Gibson-Martin spoke on 'Steel and Current Affairs'. He described the manufacture of steel and then went on to explain why British steel was the cheapest and to indicate its importance to the modern world. After his talk, Mr. Gibson-Martin showed a film which clearly illustrated the processes of steel production.

The final meeting on 7th December gave us the opportunity of hearing Colonel E. Mackinnon talk on 'India and Pakistan'. The speaker outlined the differences of race, language and religion of the Indian people and then, chiefly from his own experiences, showed how the diversities affected social and political behaviour. He gave his views on the possible future development of these two countries and concluded by explaining the background of the Kashmir dispute.

N.K.H.

LITERARY SOCIETY

The general discussion with which the Michaelmas Term opened showed the members of the society (including five new recruits) to be as prejudiced and obstinate as ever. Subjects ranged from Shakespeare to Anouilh, from Goethe to Robert Graves: perhaps the level of discussion could not maintain such sublimity without difficulty.

On 8th November we had a reading of Ibsen's 'The Wild Duck'. The leading speakers succeeded in living their parts (always hard to achieve in a play-reading) and Ibsen's particular blend of dramatic and literary greatness gave us an entertaining evening.

At our final meeting W. W. Budden read a paper on 'Early English', treating a subject that was unfamiliar to most of us in a manner that was both informative and interesting.

S.C.W.

DEBATING SOCIETY

At the first meeting of the term, the following new officers were elected: Secretary—B. Westbrook, Committee—D. S. Gerrard, N. K. Hammond and A. P. Paxman.

Only two debates were held during the Michaelmas Term, both of which were extremely well-attended. At the first, N. K. Hammond, seconded by B. L. Smith, proposed the motion that 'This house considers male dress is in need of radical reform', which was opposed by R. Dickenson and M. J. Blythe. Subjects discussed ranged from school uniform to fig leaves. When the Chairman, B. Westbrook, put the motion to the vote, it was carried by 61—25.

N. K. Hammond took the chair for the other debate, at which J. M. Mobbs proposed the highly topical motion, 'This house believes the use of force in Egypt was fully justified'. The opposer, C. M. Dunman, succeeded in holding a very biased and vigorous audience. The respective seconders were R. B. Blackmore and C. T. Pollard, both of whom gave praiseworthy maiden speeches. The motion was carried by an overwhelming majority.

This ended a short but successful term, during which many young members have shown considerable promise from the floor of the house.

B.W.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

The society held three meetings this term all of which were very well attended. On 12th October, P. M. D. Gray and B. P. Kibble gave a most interesting lecture on 'Electrons at Work' illustrated by several pieces of electronic apparatus. We hope other sixth formers will follow their example and we look forward next term to further lectures by 'home grown' scientists.

For the second meeting we joined our 'offspring', the Field Club, for an illuminating talk on 'Butterflies in the Oxford Area' by Mr. W. F. Burrows. Judging by the number of boys who stayed behind afterwards, there is a thriving community of would be and fully-fledged lepidopterists in the School. We are very grateful not only for the talk itself but for the specimens Mr. Burrows gave to the Field Club.

In our last meeting of the term, Dr. Gilbert Sanders (O.A.) delivered a lecture on 'The Experimental Basis of Reactor Design'. The talk was interpolated by slides and pictures and proved very informative. We must thank Dr. Sanders for coming over from Harwell to speak to us once more.

I.A.O.

MUSIC SOCIETY

At gramophone programmes this term we heard Concertos by Beethoven, Brahms, Elgar and Tchaikovsky, and Vaughan Williams' 'Sinfonia Antarctica'.

Bach's Christmas Oratorio and the Carol Service are dealt with elsewhere: the choir also formed four carol parties to collect for the Church of England's Children's Society, and the tenors and basses sang parts of the 'Messiah' with St. Helen's School Choir.

The band once again played at the Remembrance Day Parade and formed a carol party of its own at the end of term.

The orchestra had no public appearance, but towards the end of term they split into four groups for the inter-house music competitions which are to be held in March.

We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Kitching, who, on 28th October, gave an informal recital of Folk Songs and Guitar music in the Heylyn Room. Their varied programme included several American square dance songs. The 'pièce de resistance' was a very amusing song called 'The Man at the Home', which, we are assured, has never been written down. This was a delightful evening.

A cleverly constructed programme of poetry and music was given by three members of the Apollo Society, C. Day Lewis, Jill Balcon and Julian Bream, on 10th October, 1956. We are grateful to Mr. T. M. Fry for the following short report.

"The more modern works were the more successful. 'Pete the Parrot and Shakespeare' gave a startling but plausible account of the motives of the author of Othello. D. H. Lawrence was amusing, if inaccurate, on the family life of the tortoise. 'Bream's Scales' showed that the guitar could make us laugh too.

"On the more serious side Mr. Lewis read his own account of a flight to Italy. He vividly conveyed the tension of take-off and the menace of mountain peaks. Since it was his first flight, he may be forgiven the substitution of fanciful notions for the monotony of steady flight—but how could he miss that emotional climax, the touch-down? The Villa-Lobos preludes in D and E minor especially showed the guitar to be a solo instrument of wide capabilities and pleasant timbre.

"The readers spoke well, though their voices did not carry to the back of the hall. Mr. Bream proved himself a virtuoso of the guitar, but seemed less happy with the lute. The performers had an informal manner, at times regrettably near to indiscipline. They accepted the intervention of the bell-ringers with good humour, while the Headmaster quickly restored peace".

M.Q.K.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

This term has been one of great activity and the results have been very pleasing. During the summer holidays Mr. Griffin and Mr. Horrex reorganised the darkroom and installed another enlarger and an e-printer. We can now make rush prints from our cine negative; and Mr. Griffin has also very kindly started classes in processing for the beginners in the Society.

In the cine section we have started on two more films. The first, a feature film, 'Yours is the Earth', has already been half completed and we hope that it will be shown during next Summer Term. A short trailer to this film was shown this term.

We have also begun a newsreel film, in which we hope to record all the major events of the school year. The highlight of this term's section was the visit of Her Majesty the Queen, which was recorded by two of our cameramen who were lucky enough to get into the press enclosures.

At the end of term some of the senior members went on a long-awaited trip to Bray Film Studios. Although, owing to lack of space, we were unable to be on the set while shooting was in progress, we were able to look round later. We are indebted to Michael Sale for organising the trip.

C.T.D.

JOINT CLUB

The three meetings held this term have been greatly enjoyed by all members. The first was a social, held in the Heylyn Room, and at which we danced to various records, including Rock 'n Roll!

At the next meeting we saw the film 'Above Us the Waves'. This was supplemented by the School film 'Danger is Near' which gave the

ladies a chance to see something of other School activities. After the film show, we adjourned to the Heylyn Room where we enjoyed light refreshment to a variety of jazz records.

The final meeting was a musical one, held at St. Helen's School, when each member took along his or her favourite record, to some of which we danced. We had some live jazz and close harmony from the gentlemen, and a song and a 'cello recital from the ladies who were extremely talented.

We should like to thank Miss Glass and Mr. Sewry for their kind co-operation at the meetings.

B.L.S.

HOLIDAY CLUB

Activities during the summer vacation were somewhat restricted. The tennis fixture against Wootton L.T.C. was rained off and we had to withdraw from the Brook's Cup Cricket Competition. However we did play one cricket fixture, against Boars Hill, winning by 126—5 dec. (Phipps 54*)—116 (Fitzsimons 6—34). We are deeply grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Nurton for their kind hospitality.

In the coming holidays we hope to play two Table Tennis matches and have one Soccer fixture. There will also be a social for Club Members after Christmas.

The Club again wishes to thank the Headmaster for kindly allowing us to use the Gymnasium for table-tennis and basketball during the holidays.

B.W.

CHESS CLUB

Our aestivation ended, we begin to thrive once more and chess is the principal pastime of the sixth form, though threatened at one stage by an outbreak of 'five stones' whose supporters claimed ancient Egyptian origin, though this we doubt. A tournament was held early in the term in which H. C. Bowen defeated R. S. Green in the final.

The highlight of the term was the visit of Mr. Grundy who took on four of our best players and beat three, the fourth, N. J. H. Grant managing to hold his opponent to a draw.

Now that scholarship examinations are over it is hoped that we shall be able to play some matches next term, and we are also considering joining the Schools' League. We look forward too to further visits from Mr. Grundy whom we would thank very warmly for his interest in the club,

R.S.G.

O.A. NOTES

OXFORD LETTER

Sir,

It is indeed most regrettable that your readers have for so long been deprived of any account of doings in the senior University. Your present O.A. Correspondent can only apologise most sincerely for the sins of himself and his fellows and trust that there is no recurrence of such a sad omission.

One of the basic truths of life in Oxford is that the undergraduate must choose between the alternative attractions of work, sport and the fair sex. The pursuit of one of these alone is not to be encouraged, as it rather tends to limit one's outlook. Two is normally considered to be the ideal, but usually if three are attempted, failure in all fields is the result . . . verb. sap.

However, Sir, we are a studious lot, if one may judge by the difficulty in tracking each other down, while occasional departure into other fields is noteworthy in several, laudable instances. At Pembroke are to be discovered Norman Shurrock, Michael Enser and Richard Stevens. The existence of Norman, in his second year, is somewhat overshadowed at the moment by the relentless approach of Classical Mods., but he still finds time to watch trains. Michael has decided to turn a much-needed hand to a Pembroke blade and has been seen daily upon the river. Richard plays hockey and both spend their mornings in laboratories in the pious hope that they will soon satisfy the Moderators in Biochemistry and Physics respectively. John Lockhart-Smith is reading Agriculture at B.N.C. and his appearance becomes more rural every day, while the word 'Arrrrrr' creeps steadily into his conversation. It will surprise nobody if one day he is seen herding cows down the High.

Our senior members, Wilfred Olscher and Ian Macnaughton are at St. Catherine's, together with Thomas Glucklich. Wilfred is in his final year reading Engineering, but Ian is something of a mystery. Rumour has it however that he is to be found in the backwoods of South Parks Road, doing strange things with microscopes and bugs. Tom reads Modern Languages, and manages advertising for 'Cherwell' and still finds time for other pleasant occupations. Richard Millard, under the shadow of 'Schools', has relinquished his office as Captain of Boats at St. Peter's Hall and spends much time immured in the Camera. This has not prevented him, however, from rowing in the Balliol Long Distance Race and indulging in similar strenuous pastimes. John Westall was last seen playing a guitar in a coffee bar, but he is commonly supposed to be reading Chemistry, in his second year at St. Peter's Hall.

And so, with every best wish for the welfare of the School and all the compliments of the season,

I am honoured to remain, Sir,

Your Oxford Correspondent.

BIRTHS

ALDWORTH. On 29th December, 1956, to Monica, wife of Ernest Aldworth (1942), a son.

BOULTON. On 11th December, 1956, at Abingdon, to Joan, wife of A. J. Boulton (1940), a son.

CLAY. On 18th September, 1956, to Jennifer, wife of Capt. R. Anthony Clay, R.A. (1948), a daughter, Sarah Margaret.

RAYSON. On 15th August, 1956, to Pamela, wife of John W. Rayson (1942), a daughter, Felicity Clare, sister for Adrian.

TOWN. On 11th October, 1956, to Doris, wife of Paul A. Town (1935), a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth.

MARRIAGES

ALLEN-LAMBERT. On 2nd July, 1956, at East Ham, David E. Allen (1950), to Rita Mary Lambert.

HESTEN-HARRIS. On Saturday, 12th May, 1956, at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Coventry, Frank Hesten (1945), to Daphne Ann Harris.

LEACH-LEEDHAM. On 1st September, 1956, at St. Dunstan's Church, East Acton, Peter F. Leach (1940), to Margaret K. Leedham.

MORGAN-BRYAN. On 22nd September, 1956, at North Hinksey Church, Oxford, Anthony Morgan (1939), to Sheila Bryan.

SANDERS-SPOKES. On 6th October, 1956, at the Congregational Church, Abingdon, Lionel Gilbert Sanders (1947) to Maureen Ann Spokes.

DEATHS

JACKSON. On 5th December, 1956, Wilfred Henry Jackson (1916), of 35 Mathews Way, Lamborough Hill, Wootton, aged 57.

MILLS. In December, 1955, at Faringdon, Harold Augustus Mills (1908), aged 65.

W. H. Jackson was at School from 1911 to 1916 at the same time as his younger brother. He was a prefect and played in both the Soccer and Cricket XI's. In World War I he served in the R.N.V.R. He had for many years been in business in Abingdon.

Harold Mills came in 1904. He was a good oar and rowed for the School and Old Boys many times. His brother Alan followed him at the School and a later generation will remember his nephew, also Alan (1939).

We have also learned with regret of the death in 1946, at the age of 37, of Alan M. Garton, who was at School 1922-26. We offer our sympathy to his brother Gerald (1926-29) in his untimely loss.

The Rev. T. Romans, who was Science Master at the School 1898-1902 and subsequently took Holy Orders, has been appointed a Canon of Durham Cathedral.

G. R. Kirkby (1916) has recently been licensed as a Reader in the Diocese of Rochester.

Gordon Bayley (1938) has returned to London from Liverpool to take up his appointment as Assistant Secretary of the National Provident Institution.

Hugh Lunghi (1939) has been particularly busy of late, in consequence of the tragic events in Hungary, preparing material for the BBC European Service. He has sent us some most interesting examples of the work produced by his research department.

Michael Bateman (1951) is working on the staff of the Durham County Advertiser, and a copy of that journal recently received gave him front page headlines.

Aubrey Taylor (1951) having finished his course at the Chelsea College of Aero and Auto Engineering is working in the Service Dept. of University Motors.

We have seen recently a copy of 'Islands of Men', a study of Melanesia by Colin Simpson, which bears as its frontispiece an admirable photograph of Patrol-Officer Gordon Brown (1947) talking to natives in Western Papua. It is understood that a copy of this book is available in the Abingdon Public Library.

Dudley Richardson (1942) writes happily from Trinidad where he is Lecturer in Botany. He is extremely busy both in the lecture room and as manager of 30 acres of botany lands, and his only regret is that he has little time at present for research work on the local algae. He would be very glad to contact any O.A.'s who find themselves in that part of the world.

John Hall (1955) now in his second year at Southampton University reading for B.Sc.(Econ.) with the intention of becoming a chartered accountant, is also a keen oarsman. In the summer he had a very enjoyable visit to Holland with the University Eight rowing against Utrecht University.

Philip Kemp (1954) has become a managerial trainee with Boots the Chemists, and is also reading his B.Sc.(Econ.).

Richard Paxman (1954), another ex-Gunner, is doing a year's farming at Nuneham Courtenay before going to Seale Hayne College, Devon.

Pat Sale (1953) between University finals and National Service made a cycle tour of Europe with friends covering 1,650 miles through France, Italy, Switzerland and Germany, crossing the Alps twice.

Neil Purnell (1951), late Downing College, Cambridge, has accepted a post with Tube Investments.

Geoffrey Slack (1955) training with Vickers Armstrong, is doing a 'sandwich course' at Northampton College of Engineering, London, for B.Sc.(Aer.Eng.).

A. D. Burton (1952) is now a master at Newry Primary School, Leicester.

Jonathan Blinman (1952) is training as a Cinema Manager with the Rank Organisation.

Of recent leavers:

David Langton has been accepted for R.N.V.R. but in the meantime is doing a year's teaching at Horris Hill School, Newbury.

Tony Gardner is also teaching (principally art) at Rutland House, Hillingdon, before going to R.A.D.A.

Raymond Broad is an Assistant Chemist in the Pharmaceutical Branch of I.C.I. at Sale, Cheshire.

Peter Watkiss is with Barclay's Bank (D.C.O.) and hopes to take a Short Service Commission in R.A.F.

David Lanham has passed the exam for Executive Branch, Civil Service.

D. B. Martin is doing a 5 years' training course with J. Lyons and D. W. Howard is a trainee with Gorrings Ltd.

P. Maskell has passed the R.A.F. Apprentice exam for entry to Halton.

THE SERVICES

Lt.-Col. J. E. F. Meadmore, R.A. (1921) has been placed on the Retired List with the Hon. rank of Brigadier.

Capt. R. A. Clay, R.A. (1948) is at Dunanhill Camp, Carlisle.

Lt. A. W. R. Riggott, R.A. (1950) has been asked to do a second tour of duty as A.D.C. to the G.O.C., Malta

Lt. Roger Hamer (1950) is at the School of A.A. Artillery, Manorbier, Pems.

2nd-Lt. P. Sarsfield Hall (1955) is with 55 Trg. Regt., R.A., Tonfanu Camp, Merioneth.

2nd-Lt. B. J. Hiscock (1955) is attached to the Sierra Leone Regiment in West Africa.

Latest news of the Royal Berks contingent in Cyprus is that 2nd Lts. T. A. W. Walker and R. D. P. Griffith are with B Coy. in which David Free is a Cpl.: 2nd-Lt. Clyde Aylin is with C Coy and Neil Darroch and Jim Page in H.Q. Coy. All are well, enjoying plenty of sport and so far suffering little annoyance from EOKA.

Kevin Taylor (1953), Gordon Highlanders, is expected home from Cyprus soon for release.

D. P. Rawlins (1955) is with 45 Commando R.M.

Lt. H. B. Stevens (1951), R.A.S.C., is now at Chester.

David Jones, John Pratt and Alan Bush are at R.M.A., Sandhurst.

Of the O.A.'s serving in R.A.F.:

P.O. Michael Brackley (1954), R.A.F. Regt., is at Akrotini, Cyprus. Peter Downer has passed O.C.T.U. and is taking a 3-year short service commission. Alan Caswell is at O.C.T.U. at Jurby, I.O.M. P.O. Richard Taylor (1951) is at Oakington. C. E. Stopps (1951) at North Luffenham, Rutland; Ian Parsons and R. E. Robertson at St. Athan and David Lewis at White Waltham,

Of those who left School in July:

Frank Jeal is at R.N. Barracks, Portsmouth; John Packer in H.M.S. Protector; David Dunkley in R. Berks; George Brown in Oxf. and Bucks.; Martin Scott-Taggart and Robert Westcott in R.E.M.E. at Blandford; Cyril Woodruff in R.A.O.C. at Hilsea; P. G. Davis, A. M. Messenger and K. P. Painter in R.A.F., the last named for a 9 year engagement.

As we go to press we hear that Martin Scott-Taggart and Peter Freason (1950) have both passed W.O.S.B.

Universities and Hospitals

Because most of last year's intake are doing their National Service before entering universities, our representation is smaller than usual, but the following are believed to be in residence.

Oxford: Pembroke—N. J. Shurrock, M. B. Enser, W. N. R. Stevens.
 Brasenose—C. J. Lockhart-Smith.
 St. Peter's Hall—R. S. M. Millard, J. Westall.
 St. Catherine's—Ian McNaughton (Research), W. G. Olscher, T. C. Glucklich.

Birmingham—C. S. Wiggins (Research).

Reading—M. B. Culley.

Southampton—J. D. Hall.

Hull—J. C. Ivatts.

Durham: King's College—P. J. Lay.

Loughborough College—G. Round.

Medical Schools

Guys—J. A. Howard, P. O. Older, M. J. Rallings.

Middlesex—P. G. Cope.

University—J. M. Thistlewood.

London—P. C. Richardson.

Queen Mary's College—G. W. Crockford.

St. Andrew's—M. A. C. Heavens.

O.A. CLUB NOTES

The Annual Dance was held on Saturday, 1st December, 1956, after the O.A. Rugger Match. Some 180 tickets were sold and guests on arrival were greeted by the President, G. S. Sturrock and Mrs. Sturrock, with the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban and enjoyed a preliminary glass of sherry. Our thanks are due to the Dance Committee, Messrs. Holmes, Bevir and Alston, who did their work as efficiently as ever, and particularly to Mrs. Bevir for the decorations. A very good time was had by all.

There was also a good muster of O.A.'s at Morning Chapel on the next day and they afterwards enjoyed the hospitality of Mrs. Cobban in School House for coffee.

1957

Dates for 1957 fixtures are as follows:

Hockey Match—16th February.

London Dinner—Friday, 8th March, at the Constiitutional Club,
Northumberland Avenue, W.C.1.

Athletic Sports—16th March.

Old Boys' Day and Dinner—15th June.

Rugger Match and Dance—7th December.

Old Abingdonian Trust Fund

As recorded, and illustrated elsewhere, the War Memorial Pavilion is now in being, and those who should know best are very well satisfied with it, and deeply grateful to all those who have made its provision possible. At the moment the balance outstanding to be met by the Fund is about £1,100 but thanks to the generous response to the appeal (and contributions continue to come in) we should be able to discharge it within four years.

We gratefully acknowledge the latest contributions: Additional Covenants from T. G. Austin, E. G. Langford and S. A. Paige; New Covenants from A. C. Hyde-Parker, Esq., G. H. Lewington, W. D. Richardson, J. I. Taylor, Esq. and D. O. Willis.

G. F. Duxbury.

Terms of Subscription

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

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

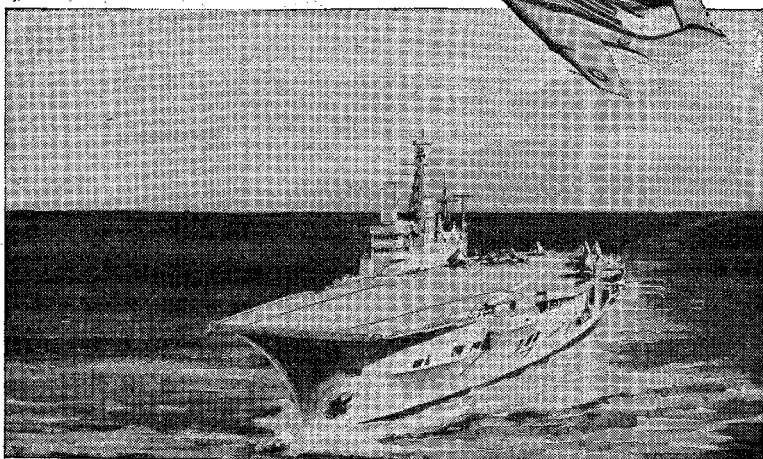
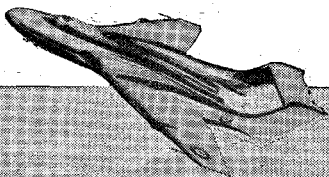
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Old Boys and others can obtain the Magazine in three ways:

1. *By Banker's Order (minimum 7/6) payable to the Old Abingdonian Trust Fund. Forms of Covenant which will nearly double the value of all subscriptions to the Fund of 10/- and over will gladly be supplied.*
2. *By Compounding for Life Subscription: 5 guineas maximum, 2 guineas minimum, according to age.*
3. *By subscription to the Magazine at current price, at present 5/- per annum.*

All subscriptions to the O.A. Trust Fund and 'The Abingdonian', or questions relating to them should be sent to G. F. Duxbury, Abingdon School, Berks. He will also be glad to receive news from and concerning O.A.'s for inclusion in the magazine, and particularly prompt notice of all changes of address.

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UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS—The Coal Board offer a hundred University Scholarships a year; most are in Mining Engineering, and some are available in Mechanical, Electrical and Chemical Engineering and in Fuel Technology. They are worth about the same as State Scholarships but there is no parental means test.

SCHOOL LEAVERS—There are also good opportunities for advancement for boys with initiative who come straight into the industry from school. You can attend part-time courses (for example, National Certificate courses) at technical colleges for which you are given day release from work with pay.

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Write for full particulars to any of the Divisional Headquarters of the Board—Edinburgh, Newcastle, Sheffield, Manchester, Nottingham, Dudley (Worcs.), Cardiff or Dover—or to the Director-General of Staff, National Coal Board, Hobart House, London, S.W.1.