

THE ABINGDONIAN

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CALENDAR, SUMMER TERM, 1958

April

Tues. 29 Term begins.

May

Sat. 10 1st XI v. Newbury Grammar School (a).
Tues. 13 Field Day—C.C.F. and Scouts.
Wed. 14 1st VIII v. Sir Wm. Borlase's School, Marlow (a).
Sat. 17 1st XI v. St. Edward's School 2nd XI (h).
1st IV v. Culham College (h).
Wed. 21 1st Tennis VI v. Culham College (h).
Mon. 26 1st IV at Reading Clinker Regatta.
Fri. 23 12.30 p.m. to Wed. 28th: Half Term.
Wed. 28 1st Tennis VI v. Magdalen College School, Oxford (a).
Sat. 31 1st VIII at Oxford Royal Regatta.
1st XI v. Magdalen College School, Oxford (a).
1st Tennis VI v. Nautical College, Pangbourne (h).

June

Wed. 4 1st XI v. King Alfred's School, Wantage (a).
1st VIII v. Reading School (a).
Sat. 7 1st XI v. Solihull School (h), 11.30 a.m.
1st VIII at Wallingford Regatta.
1st Tennis VI v. Berkhamsted School (h).
Wed. 11 1st XI v. Berkshire Gentlemen (h), 11.30 a.m.
Sat. 14 1st XI v. Old Abingdonians (h), 11 a.m.
1st Tennis VI v. Old Abingdonians (h).
Wed. 18 1st XI v. Leighton Park School (h).
1st Tennis VI v. Leighton Park School (h).
Sat. 21 1st XI v. City of Oxford School (a).
1st VIII at Marlow Regatta.
Sat. 28 1st XI v. Parents' XI (h).

July

Sat. 5 1st XI v. Abingdon C.C. (h).
1st Tennis VI v. Radley College (a).
Sat. 12 1st XI v. Oratory School (h).
1st Tennis VI v. Reading School (a).
Wed. 16 1st XI v. R.G.S., High Wycombe (a).
1st Tennis VI v. R.G.S., High Wycombe (a).
Fri. 18 Annual Inspection of the C.C.F.
Sat. 19 1st Tennis VI v. Abingdon L.T.C. (h).
Sat. 26 FOUNDER'S DAY.
Tues. 29 Term ends, 10.15 a.m.
1st Tennis IV to Wimbledon (Youll Cup).

Michaelmas Term begins Friday, 19th September, 1958.

(Boarders return Thursday, 18th September, 1958).

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OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL

SCHOOL PREFECTS

M. S. R. Broadway (Head of School and of School House)

I. A. Oliver (Head of Crescent House)

C. M. Dunman (Head of Dayboys)

R. K. Le Voi (S)

P. E. J. Fitzsimons (D)

M. Q. King (S)

J. A. T. Saywell (C)

P. M. D. Gray (D)

G. Dimond (D)

R. B. Scott-Taggart (D)

M. S. Bretscher (D)

R. M. Kennedy (S)

D. J. Meakins (L)

J. H. Thewlis (D)

C. J. Redknap (D)

A. J. Foden (S)

A. W. Thistlewood (D)

A. J. Costley (W)

HOUSE PREFECTS

School House—R. S. Green; R. H. Simpson; J. A. Sheard; P. P. Wintle;
C. T. Denniford; R. J. Trenaman; J. M. Foster; J. A. Longworth; D. G. Darroch.

Crescent House—S. H. Freedman; L. T. Harrington; P. M. C. Hampson;
W. J. Phipps; O. M. L. Rhys.

Waste Court—D. G. Morris; A. P. Paxman.

Larkhill—G. M. Crow.

Dayboy—I. R. Peedell; D. H. Bragg; C. B. Maloney; N. G. C. Norman;
E. R. L. Day; D. S. Lees; J. J. Day; A. T. Aitchison; D. J. Exon;
M. J. Blythe; B. P. Gardner; C. D. Loukes; D. E. Camplin; I. J. Kirby.

Captain of Cricket—W. J. Phipps; Secretary—R. M. Kennedy.

Captain of Boats—M. S. R. Broadway; Secretary—I. A. Oliver.

Captain of Tennis—N. G. C. Norman; Secretary—P. M. D. Gray.

Secretary of G.G.C.—M.S.R. Broadway.

Secretary of Minor Games—N. G. C. Norman.

EDITORIAL

"... Je réusserais à conduire ma vie beaucoup mieux ... que si je ne m'appuyasse que sur les principes que je m'étais lassé persuader en ma jeunesse sans avoir jamais examiné s'ils étaient vrais".—Descartes.

Most of us reach a stage in our lives when we begin to question all the principles which we have hitherto taken for granted; then, if we are wise, we carry out the prescription of Descartes and have a sort of mental spring-cleaning, adjusting our ideas "au niveau de la raison" as Descartes puts it.

The conclusions we come to after this re-adjustment are our own affair; we have free will and are perfectly entitled to hold, for instance, that the earth is flat, but what is important is that we "stop and have a little think" (to quote a country poet), before we decide on which side of the fence to come down.

This re-assessment is particularly necessary in religious matters, but it is in this very sphere that many of us are most negligent. Naturally this is written with a Christian bias, but the point that we, the editorial, are trying to make is not that the whole School should turn Christian in a spectacular mass conversion, but that every one of us should follow Descartes and be able to convince himself that he knows why he thinks what he thinks.

Let the agnostic base his doubts on careful consideration, let the atheist be prepared to defend his unfaith, and finally if anyone decides that Christian principles give full measure when weighed in the balance then let him not be ashamed to profess his faith, and by the nature of his conduct and appearance try to convince other people that there is something in it after all.

SCHOOL NOTES

We offer our sympathy to Lord Glyn in the heavy loss he has sustained through the death of Lady Glyn. The Chairman of the Governors represented the School at the funeral.

We also record with regret the deaths of Mr. H. L. Drake, Senior Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford, and for many years a Governor of this School; and of Dr. C. M. Ady, Chairman of the Governors of our 'opposite number', the School of St. Helen and St. Katharine.

Our good wishes go to Mr. H. J. Thomas, formerly Vice-Chairman of the Governors, who has for some time been seriously ill.

As Alderman Barber vacates the office of Mayor we should like to express our thanks for the interest he has taken in the School during his year of office and our hope that he will enjoy the rather less busy years that lie ahead of him.

To succeed him as Mayor (and as ex-officio Governor of the School) we welcome Councillor C. E. Gostling. Mr. Gostling already has many close links with the School and we shall greet him both as Mayor and as friend.

We congratulate Dr. John Fisher on his election as Chairman of the Borough Bench of Magistrates in succession to the late Mr. A. B. West (O.A.).

Our good wishes accompanied Mr. Williams and Miss Owen to Aberystwyth where they were married on 10th April. Another link with St. Helen's this. But it would be a nice change if some member of the staff were to get married in *England*, so that we could give them stronger support on the day.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Robert Baynes on the birth of a son (22nd January).

Good wishes to Miss Welles, who is vacating the appointment of lady cook in order to broaden her experience elsewhere, and greetings to her successor, Miss Anderson.

The office mourns the loss of Mrs. Hillary, who has quite rightly decided that the care of Mr. Hillary is a full-time occupation. She has been succeeded as Administrative Assistant by Miss Baker and we hope that her stay will be long and happy.

Mr. Smithson is now on the job as groundsman-coach. The Second XI square is already beginning to show signs of rejuvenation under the master-hand and we look forward next term to reaping the full benefit of this long-awaited addition to the staff.

We should like to associate the School with the many expressions of gratitude and goodwill which must be reaching Mr. E. R. Bailey on the occasion of his resignation from the post of District Commissioner for the Scouts: for we know not only how much Mr. Bailey has done for Scouting in North Berks but more particularly how helpful he was when we were getting our own troop started some years ago.

Our very warm thanks go to all those parents and friends who have been so generous to us this term; and in particular to Squadron-Leader A. G. Cork, M.C., for the gift of a Challenge Cup for House Fives: Commander P. A. C. Crow, V.R.D., for the promise of an annual award for Shooting: Major V. C. Buckley for the gift of two ancient maps and a reproduction of Annigoni's portrait of the Duke of Edinburgh: Mr. Hyde-Parker for a valuable telescope: Mrs. Gostling for two L.P. records of Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius": Mrs. Parkes for a handsome cheque for the Chapel Furnishing Fund; and a parent, who wishes to remain anonymous, for a similar donation to the Boat Club.

We also acknowledge gratefully the gift of books for the Library from Lord Glyn and from the American Information Service.

Not so many visitors from overseas have found their way to Abingdon this term. But on 20th February we were glad to welcome two distinguished German 'educationalists', Herr St/Rat Walter Kolbrueck of Bremen and Frau Kaethe Lorenzen of Kiel; and on 21st March Mlle. Nicole Pasquier, of Argentan.

Mrs. Beinhorn, who visited us three times, deserves more detailed mention. Mrs. Beinhorn is touring Europe in a Cadillac and comparing the intellectual achievement of European and American children. At her request twenty-five of our fifteen-year-olds were chosen to 'represent' the School and were subjected to a formidable battery of tests on 13th February. Results so far available would seem to be highly complimentary to the School. To reveal them would involve the use of technical language and would be scarcely fair either to Mrs. Beinhorn or to the boys concerned. But perhaps it can be said that one of the 'team' scored so heavily that for him it was not possible to draw a 'diagnostic-profile' (a new word for our collection).

We were glad to welcome our old friend Mr. Newby-Robson, of the Public Schools' Appointments Bureau, on 12th February; and Mr. John Brook, of the Schools' Broadcasting Council, on 25th February. Mr. Brook, of course, came primarily to see what we were making of the television programmes, and he was able to 'look in' at one of them with a form.

It may be said here that from our point of view the installation of TV has on balance been a Good Thing. Its educational value has still to be fully explored, but the sport and entertainment programmes over the weekend have been greatly appreciated by the boarders. To prevent undesirable addiction, admission and choice of programme are controlled by a committee of senior boys. To them, and to all the prefects and house-prefects who work the Machine, we offer our thanks. It is rumoured too that it is turned to good purpose during the holidays: and that the Lecture Room on Boat Race Saturday gave the impression of a sub-fusc Masters' Meeting.

The number of boys on the School Roll at the beginning of the Lent Term was 495 (Dayboys 309, Boarders 186).

We congratulate J. H. Thewlis on winning one of the prizes offered in a competition in 'Mathematical Pie'; and R. S. Green on the high commendation he received for his performance in the Latin and Greek Reading Competition organised by the Reading Branch (Reading not reading!) of the Classical Association.

Saturday night entertainments during the past term have included three feature films ('The Dam Busters', 'Moby Dick' and 'A Night at

the Opera'): a first-rate concert by the Oxford Salvation Army Citadel Band; and four lecturers—Mr. George Bilainkin on 'Meeting the Celebrities', Mr. James Blades on 'The Orchestral Kitchen', Mr. Eric Shipton, C.B.E., on 'Chinese Turkestan', and Mr. Guy Arnold on 'The Oxford University Expedition to Borneo'. It is no reflection on our other distinguished visitors to say that the one we shall longest remember is Mr. Blades, the man who *really* strikes the gong for the Rank Organisation, with his curious assortment of percussion instruments.

Mid-week lecturers, at various levels of the School, have been as follows:

February 10th—Rev. E. Corr, of the Church Missionary Society, on the work of the Church in Hong-Kong.

February 28th—Rev. J. L. Gowring, on the work of the St. Pancras Housing Society.

March 11th—Rev. G. Helft, on the work of the Mission to Seamen.

Outside entertainments at which we have been represented include lectures by Sir John Cockcroft on "Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy" (February 4th) and by Dr. Thompson on "Soviet Russia" (February 13th), both organised by the Oxford branch of C.E.W.C.; a film show on the problems of present-day housing organised by the Corporation (17th February); Oxford productions of "King Lear" (28th February), and "The Mikado" (21st March); a lecture on Greek Relief Sculpture organised by the Oxford Branch of the Classical Association (10th March); a lecture by Mr. Michael Gough, F.S.A., on "Newly Discovered Mosaics from Crete and Turkey", organised by the Friends of Abingdon; and the Montgomery Lecture at Reading by Professor Nineham on "The New Testament Miracles" (27th March).

In addition, at the beginning of the term parties of senior scientists attended a demonstration given by the Abingdon Study Circle of the Casualties Union at the Longworth Scientific Instrument Works (18th January) and visited the Hydraulic Research Station at Wallingford (22nd January).

The School offered the hospitality of the Heylyn Room for a talk by Bishop Allen on "Reunion" on 21st February.

The customary "Senior Parents' Evening" was held on 13th March, and attracted a record attendance. As a result, it has been decided in future to sub-divide still further, and to have separate evenings for fifth and for sixth formers.

The annual Boarders' Concert was held on the last evening of the term, 31st March. In order to conserve the new Gym. floor the Corn Exchange was hired for the occasion: but although the production lost a little in intimacy, it retained its domestic and informal character. The show was admirably compered by the Head of School. It had its

weak moments, but some of it reached a high level. The fresh simplicity of the singing of the Hilly-Billy-Ducklings was quite delightful; so too was the home-made comic opera put on by Crescent House. There was some outrageously irreverent (but quite inoffensive) caricature of two Fairly Important Personages, and an ample ration of more conventional music and clowning. The magazine programme, though occasionally esoteric in its appeal, calls for especial commendation. In all, a pleasant enough evening, even if it produced nothing quite as funny, as, say, "The Return of Jack" of 1954.

Once again our members are undertaking a wide variety of activities during the Easter holidays. Our athletes have competed, not discreditably, in the Midland Schools' Championship at Birmingham. Mr. Talbot and Mr. Blagden have led an enlarged contingent of the Skye Group to the Lake District, where they are roughing it under what sound to be sub-arctic conditions. Mr. and Mrs. Griffin are shortly conducting a large party of staff and boys to Sicily. We hope to be able to publish some account of these two parties on a later page. Several of our musicians are playing in Mrs. Kitching's Holiday Orchestra. We are represented at the C.A.C.T.M. Sixth Form Weekend at Oxford (M. Q. King), at the Outward Bound Mountain School at Eskdale (P. J. Ford), and at the Public Schoolboys' Course at Ashbridge (A. Rowles). A record number of seven boys are attending Short Works Courses organised by the Public Schools Appointments Bureau (J. Fry with Birmid Industries in Staffordshire, G. W. Jones with Westinghouse at Chippenham, N. W. Pridham with Simpson's of Piccadilly, A. F. Pritchard with G.E.C. at Birmingham, J. A. T. Saywell with Barclay's Bank at Wimbledon, R. C. Watts somewhere in the Western Region of British Railways, and P. P. Wintle with G.E.C. at Wembley).

In addition nearly a dozen boys are busy on their projects for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme under the general supervision of Mr. Vallance. Some are going on a ten-day "National Endeavour" course, one is spending three days in Sheffield studying the steel industry, another is exploring archaeological sites in Hampshire. We are most grateful for the outside help we are receiving in this connection, and we would thank especially Miss Jacquetta Hawkes, Mr. C. E. Stevens of Magdalen College, and the Staff of United Steels.

Many of those who live locally are taking advantage of the three days' cricket coaching that Mr. Smithson is laying on in the middle of the holiday. For the last week in April he has been asked to coach Oxford University. We are pleased, though not surprised, that they have got on to him so quickly.

The unprecedented appearance of a Lesser Scaup on the Sutton Courtenay gravel pits, which received the honour of a BBC programme, has not only given a fillip to bird-watching in the School but has also

provided the material for a new legend; for the belief is growing that our Expert Ornithologist, R. S. Green, either put the bird there himself or made up the whole story.

The colour film of Abingdon, produced for the Civic Trust, had its first showing to representatives of the Trust and of the Abingdon Civic Committee on 6th February. It was subsequently sent to London where it was vetted by representatives of the BBC. Further shooting is taking place during the holidays to meet their suggestions. All being well the film, complete with commentary, will be 'publicly released' in time for the Civic Exhibition which is being opened in the County Hall at Whitsuntide.

A dozen members of 3A had their big moment on 8th March, when they were invited to take part in a demonstration lesson of first-year Greek at a refresher course at University College, London, organised jointly by the Classical Association and the Association for the Reform of Latin Teaching. Some of their impressions are recorded on a later page. We understand they are open to consider any further engagements that may be offered to them.

The problem of fitting the athletic requirements of an expanding School into one Sports Day has become more and more acute in recent years. This year the decisive step was taken of spreading the Sports over two days, the last Wednesday and Saturday of term. It is clear that some such division has come to stay though it is not pretended that this year's arrangement was ideal. There is room for much thought and experiment here.

We welcome unreservedly the further signs of a vigorous out-of-school activity provided by the inauguration of fives and cross-country matches against other schools. The more openings we can provide for the boys whose needs are not met by the major school games the better!

We hear that Mr. Helliwell is planning to build a new fives court during the summer term with the aid of a working party of senior boys. It is a formidable but worth-while undertaking and we wish them luck.

Lastly, it should be recorded that the health of the School has been excellent throughout the past term—presumably the autumn epidemic had an immunising effect—but that the weather has been disappointing, often too wet for games, usually too cold for comfort, never cold enough for skating. To wake up to a white world on Easter Saturday morning (5th April) was the crowning freak. But a late spring will mean that many of the flowering trees which the boys do not normally see will be at their best when school returns.

The photographs in this issue are by kind permission of Mr. Milligan; S. Hughes, Photographer, of Clapton; M. A. C. Stockwell and C. M. Dunman.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of magazines from the following schools (to 1st April): Aldenham; Chigwell; City of Oxford; King Alfred's, Wantage; Magdalen College; Pocklington; Radley; Reading; St. Bartholomew's, Newbury; St. Edward's, Oxford; and also from R.N. College, Dartmouth; R.N. Engineering College, Keyham; and R.M.A., Sandhurst.

We were most interested, too, to read a copy of the *Melburnian*, the magazine of Melbourne C. of E. Grammar School, which the Editors have kindly sent to us.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL

(A note by the Headmaster)

As far as the main body of the School is concerned, this has been an uneventful term. But in a way that is a good thing. Last year the Inspectors themselves expressed the hope that we could look forward to a period of stability in which to consolidate after the remarkable expansion of recent years. For the moment I should agree with the misquotation "Happy is the School that has no history".

But behind the scenes much has been happening which will have a very real effect upon our fortunes. The Governors have now made the necessary financial arrangements for our immediate building projects and indeed work has already got well started on the new wing of Waste Court. I was not present at the obsequies of the old Conservatory, but I am assured by the builders that it needed little more than a huff and a puff to blow it down. To honour its memory we are inserting in this issue a photograph of Waste Court taken before operations began.

The very much bigger project, for the improvement of School House, has now reached the final drawing-board stage and we are hoping to get the contract signed and work started during the summer. Life may be a little trying at times for the occupants of School House while operations are in progress, but the result will be well worth it. I am particularly pleased that the architect has been able to provide for a prefects' common room of reasonable size between School and School House. Apart from giving more elbow room to a deserving section of the School this should have great psychological advantage in enabling senior boarders and dayboys to meet on common ground.

Meanwhile much minor decoration and repair is in progress. The experiment of painting the doors on the ground floor of the School in bright colours has been so successful that it is being extended to the upper floors. The outside painting of the School is being completed. In School House, more lights are being put into the vast Upper Dormitory, and the ventilation on the first floor is being improved.

On the horizon looms something far more important—our Quatercentenary Appeal. The Appeal Committee has had several meetings in order to hammer out its objectives and its strategy. It is vitally important that the Appeal should not go off at half-cock. We are hoping to get it properly launched in the course of the summer. Here I need only say that we are deliberately going to set ourselves a high target which will present a real challenge to all friends of the School, whether parents, Old Boys, or just friends.

* * * *

Apart from 'landlord's fixtures', so to speak, we are gradually improving the amenities of life, for boarders and for dayboys alike. The first orders of new furniture for School House should soon be arriving. To TV in the Lecture Room has now been added in the Music Room what I should call a high-grade radio set with gramophone pick-up; but the experts refer to it as a 'Main amplifier and pre-amplifier, with transcription turn-table, used in conjunction with two horn-type corner acoustic enclosures'. Anyway the quality of the reproduction is quite startling. On a less intellectual plane, we owe it to Mr. Coleman and his mates that we now have a proper table-tennis table for use in the Gymnasium out of hours.

It is a very good thing, of course, if boys can be encouraged to provide their own amenities. That is why I welcome so warmly Mr. Helliwell's plan to build a fives court in the course of the summer term. An ambitious project—but then, so was the Jekyll Garden. At one time I thought it would never come to fruition. But it did, and this year we shall enjoy using it, just as I hope in future years we may enjoy using the new fives court.

To end on a lighter note, I must confess that I found John Sheard's performance at the Boarders' Concert quite devastating to any self-esteem I may have had. It is a sad thought that all the time this term I thought he was drinking in my remarks with respectful attention he was merely memorising my mannerisms.

J.M.C.

FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Founders Day this year will be celebrated on Saturday, 26th July. The provisional programme is as follows:

11.30 a.m. Service in St. Helen's Church, Abingdon. Address by the Rev. W. B. Littlechild, R.D., Vicar of Sutton Courtenay.

2.30 p.m. Distribution of Prizes in the Corn Exchange by the Rt. Hon. Lord Glyn of Farnborough, M.C., D.L.

4.15 p.m. The Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban will be "At Home" at the School House to Parents, Old Boys and friends of the School (after which the School and the Grounds will be open for inspection and there will be displays of various School activities).

8.00 p.m. Presentation of "The Mikado" in the Corn Exchange.

On Sunday, 27th July, the Chaplain will preach at Morning Service in the School Chapel (10 a.m.): and the Headmaster will preach at 6.30 p.m. at the Annual School Service in St. Nicolas' Church.

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

There will be additional performances of "The Mikado" at 7.30 p.m. on 24th and 25th July. Tickets for any performance can be obtained from Mr. Sewry, price 4/- and 3/-. Parents who live locally are asked to come, if possible, to the earlier performances.

Old Boys' Day will be held this year on Saturday, 14th June. Details of the programme will be circulated later to all members of the O.A. Club. *Old Boys* are also specially invited to attend Morning Service in the School Chapel on the following Sunday, 15th June: and subsequently to take coffee with the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban in the garden of the School House.

VALETE ET SALVETE

Valete—left 19th December, 1957

Upper Sixth Form Arts: C. K. D. Cobley; J. M. Mobbs; R. Powell; B. D. Winkett.

Upper Sixth Form Science: S L. Norris (left 9th November).

Lower Sixth Form Science: G. Sheppard.

Form Sixth General: T. C. Moodey (left 28th September).

Form 5 Science: A. J. Mustardé.

Form 5 E: B. P. A. Cork, C. S. Jones.

Form 3A: R D. Pratt.

Form 1X: W. F. Collins.

Salvete—came 17th January, 1958

Lower Sixth Form Arts: G. M. Morse.

Form IY: P. H. Davis.

CHAPEL NOTES

Morning Service on the first Sunday of term, 19th January, took the form of a thanksgiving for the life and service of Archibald Buller West (O.A.). It was attended by members of the family and by representatives of the Governors and of the Old Boys. The second lesson was read by Mr. Pritchard, Mr. West's professional partner, and the Choir sang an appropriate anthem by Christopher Tye.

Another anthem, S. S. Wesley's "Blessed be the God", was sung later in the term; and on the last Sunday the Choir and the congregation sang Stanford's setting in B flat of the Te Deum.

The Chaplain preached at the School Service held in St. Helen's Church on the first day of term, 17th January. The preacher at the School Service on 29th April will be the Rev. J. F. B. Goodwin, M.A., Vice-Principal of Ripon Hall, Oxford.

Other visiting preachers whom we hope to hear during the Summer Term are as follows:

May 18th—A. Chenevix-Trench, Esq., M.A., Headmaster of Bradfield College.

June 22nd—H. B. Hitchens, Esq., O.B.E., T.D., M.A., Headmaster of Solihull School.

July 6th—Rev. M. H. Jelbert, of Trinity Methodist Church, Abingdon.

July 13th—Rev. Donald Henning, D.D., L.H.D., Ph.B., Rector of Calvary Church, Memphis, Tennessee.

We are particularly looking forward to Dr. Henning's visit. 'The American preacher' always provides a red-letter day in our calendar, and Dr. Henning seems to have had an especially interesting career. He has worked at different times among the Indians of South Dakota, as Headmaster of what we should call a public school, and as a military chaplain in North Africa. We are informed on good authority that his last visit to England was in the summer of 1929 when he travelled overseas as a member of a college dance orchestra. It is a far cry from that to his present status as President of the Standing Committee of the Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee.

We also look forward to welcoming on the afternoon of Thursday, 19th June, the Rt. Rev. Kosiya Shalita, Assistant Bishop of Uganda, one of the overseas Bishops who is coming to England for the Lambeth Conference.

The usual short mid-week service was held each Thursday evening during Lent. In addition, there was a mid-week Celebration every Wednesday morning, apart from Celebrations on the major Saints' Days. On Palm Sunday evening, as an Easter offering, the Choir and the

Orchestra combined to present Haydn's "Creation" in the Church Hall, kindly put at our disposal by the Vicar. An appreciation of this, for which we are indebted to a parent, Mr. J. Fairlie, follows these notes.

The retiring collection after the "Creation", amounting to £7 (a suspiciously round figure!) was given to the funds of St. Helen's Church. Other collections allotted to outside charities were as follows:

Student Christian Movement	...	...	£4	7	3
British Council of Churches Refugee Appeal			£6	17	3
Royal School of Church Music	...	...	£6	1	9
U.M.C.A.	...	...	£7	2	3

The contents of the alms-box for the past two terms, amounting in all to £3, have been sent to the Abingdon Church Extension Fund (of which more below).

We are grateful to those parents who have contributed hymn-books and psalters to the Chapel during the past term. Further contributions for this purpose are always welcome. We are glad to arrange for the cost (10/- a book) to be debited on the next bill; and books presented in this way are suitably inscribed. It may not be generally realised that the books in a school chapel, all of which are used for Senior and Junior Services each day, are handled so much more frequently than the books in a parish church, and the wear and tear, with consequent need of replacement, is proportionately heavier.

Here we should like to thank Mr. Coleman, who has fitted all the book troughs in the Chapel with a wedge which will make it more difficult for the careless to break the spines of their books when ramming them home.

The Chapel Council met once this term (on 24th February) and the smaller body, the Chapel Committee, twice. Subjects discussed have included the form of service on Sunday evenings (that hardy annual), the problem of coping with an influx of visitors on Sunday evening, the desirability of music at the Celebrations, the possibility of emphasising the Cross on the altar by a dorsal of some kind, and such minor administrative points as the order of leaving Chapel. One major decision has been taken. Encouraged by a generous gift from a parent, we are pushing on with the first stage of the replacement of the unsightly chairs at the East end of the Chapel by comely oak pews. Fortunately it is a work that can be done in instalments; and we hope that the first row of pews will act as a kind of china egg for the Furnishing Fund.

The Editorial may or may not be right in suggesting that the Christian Front in the School should be a little more robust: but we can wholeheartedly applaud the vigorous signs of life in the churches of Abingdon. Our friends at Trinity are building a new Methodist Church in the

housing estates to the north of the Borough. Our own Church is going ahead with the imaginative project of converting the ancient Tithe Barn at Northcourt into a church. It may too be put on record that on Easter Sunday St. Nicolas' Church was so full for Morning Service that chairs had to be borrowed from the Guildhall at the last moment. Bell-chamber and aisles were filled and even so there were people standing at the back of the Church. Our own Peter Heylyn, who was largely responsible for the preservation of St. Nicolas' Church, would have rejoiced to see it so full. We think too that he would be pleased that Anglicans and Methodists should be meeting in the Heylyn Room on 24th April to discuss, at ground-level, the question of the Reunion of the Churches.

HAYDN'S "CREATION"

"Haydn never lost his youthful spirit; and his "Creation" is highly suitable for a School Performance.

It is not too difficult—even for the less musical!—to appreciate. It has variety and contrast, as it moves forward to its majestic close. It has lightness and humour too: witness "the flexible tiger". All this makes its appeal; and clearly the appeal went home to those who presented "The Creation" on 30th March. There was in their music-making no uncertainty about the light and shade, the peace and the joy; and the appeal came through also to us who listened.

Again, an Oratorio gives a School an excellent opportunity for combined musical operations; and it was pleasant to see boys and masters sharing the solos, boys reinforced by masters in the choir, and an orchestra led indeed by boys but graced also by their lady-helpers.

Of course these combined operations are not easy; and again "The Creation" was a first-rate choice. It was difficult enough to be a challenge, but worth tackling, and well tackled. Everyone watched their conductor, and he was well in command. Some of the timings were a severe test, but most of them were mastered—with the help of some prominent head-nodding in the counting of bars! The balance was good. The soloists entered into their none too easy parts with a fair measure of confidence and success. Out of much that was good, the solo and chorus, "The marvellous work", deserves special mention.

But we were doing more than listening to music. At the Creation, "the sons of God shouted for joy"; and we were enabled to share that joy—a fitting theme for returning springtime, and a fitting Palm Sunday prelude to the celebration of Christ's New Creation on Easter Day".

J.F.

Soloists: Raphael—Mr. L. C. J. Griffin; Ariel—Mr. G. H. Cooper; Gabriel—C. J. Dean; Adam—R. H. Simpson; Eve—R. S. Ogg.

SCHOOL MUSIC

Despite the Editor's dislike of "Canned Entertainment", there is no one who can deny the merits of our most recent acquisition—namely the Hi-Fi Equipment now installed in the Music Room. Whether one wishes to be shaken with the "1812" Overture or else listen to the calm of Saint-Saëns' "The Swan", the result is equally superb. Our gratitude to those concerned in its purchase.

The Band and Orchestras enjoyed their (well-earned) tea at the Bridge Cafe on 3rd February, and a party of senior boys went to the Oxford New Theatre for the Covent Garden production of "The Marriage of Figaro" on 7th March.

Undoubtedly the best entertainment for many years was James ("Jimmy they call me in the 'trade' ") Blades' Lecture/Recital on "The Orchestral Kitchen" on 8th February. Not a single percussion instrument was omitted from his huge display, which, including kettle-drums, *all* fitted into his not-so-very-huge car. The large audience was 'with him' from the start, and whenever we see a J. Arthur Rank film in the future we shall remember him and his unique Tam Tam. His wife—Joan Goossens—was able to reduce full orchestral scores in her excellent piano accompaniment. Since this memorable visit, Mr. Blades has given a new book on Timpani and Percussion to the Music Library, and has been the man most responsible for our buying two Timpani ourselves—leaving our orchestras complete now with the exception of a Bassoon!

Both Orchestras participated in the North Berks. Festival on 8th March. They had the advantage of having played most of the music at last Term's Concert, and the additional advantage of having to play with the other schools under Charles Hambourg's guiding baton. The Festival was non-competitive, and one hopes it may remain thus—so that the performers can have the experience of playing together in an orchestra of symphonic size.

Mr. John Russell adjudicated the Brass, Strings and Woodwind sections of the House Music Competitions on the following day. There were forty entries, which in itself is encouraging, and Blacknall maintained their lead—(Blacknall 70, Bennett 55, Reeves 45 and Tesdale 33)—mainly due to J. H. Thewlis' keen 'captaincy'. Winners were as follows:

Open Strings—D. Wiggins (Bl.).

Open Brass—I. A. Oliver (T.).

Open Woodwind—J. H. Thewlis (Bl.).

Junior Strings—N. P. Loukes (R.).

Junior Brass—R. G. M. Johnston (B.).

Junior Woodwind—K. W. R. Dixon (R.).

As well as providing humorous anecdotes, Mr. Russell gave the competitors some most useful advice—the two items which usually make an adjudicator appreciated by his audience.

The Oxford Citadel Band gave us a concert on 22nd March. One was not quite sure how this would be accepted by such a critical audience as boys always provide. But this fear was dispelled from the start and we heard some first-rate loud and soft ensemble playing in a varied programme. To Mr. Clack our thanks for arranging this unprecedented concert.

The Choir and Orchestra performed Haydn's "Creation" on the evening on Palm Sunday. A critique appears elsewhere in this edition. Possibly the most encouraging feature about the performance was the fact that the orchestra consisted mainly of boys, with the minimum of "outside"—but invaluable, nevertheless—help.

On the previous day, the Quartet in which Mr. Horrex was singing won the Vocal Ensembles' section of the North Berks Festival. His help is now felt in much of the neighbourhood's music.

E.H.F.S.

HOCKEY, 1958

A disappointing season in many ways. Pride of place must go to the weather; a perennial complaint this, but this year really was rather exceptional, five first eleven matches having to be cancelled (one of which was subsequently re-arranged) while to be able to have a practice game at all was something of an event. The First Eleven, though a promising team on paper, did not really live up to its promise, and its record of eight matches played, of which only three were won and one drawn, is very disappointing. The defence usually played very well and were effective, except on one notable occasion, as the scores against us attest. The forwards, however, were too often ineffective, in particular in front of goal. A little extra speed and determination in getting a shot in might on more than one occasion have turned defeat into victory.

The Second Eleven, by contrast, had one of their most successful seasons, winning four out of their five matches played, three having to be cancelled. Simpson was a good captain and set his side a good example with his own energetic and by no means unskilful play at centre half.

The House Cup was shared by Tesdale and Blacknall after a final in which each side scored one goal. It was a pity that a replay could not be arranged, but time did not permit.



J. A. T. Saywell, G. Dimond, J. H. Thewlis, P. E. J. Fitzsimons, A. J. Costley, D. J. Meakins, M. S. Bretscher, A. J. Foden,
R. B. Scott-Taggart, M. Q. King, C. M. Dunman, M. S. R. Broadway, The Headmaster, I. A. Oliver, R. K. Le Voi,
P. M. D. Gray, R. M. Kennedy.



SENIOR ATHLETICS TEAM, 1958

FIRST ELEVEN CHARACTERS

R. M. KENNEDY (*Right back, Colours 1958, Captain*).

A calm and skilful player who has the happy knack of emerging with the ball from a melee. He has a strong clearance which he distributes with intelligence, and is very difficult to pass. As captain, he has been quietly competent, and has set a good example to his side.

L.C.J.G.

P. E. J. FITZSIMONS (*Left back, Colours 1958, Secretary*).

A very determined player who has regained his form of two seasons ago. His tackling is very good as is his hitting, but he must beware of undercutting the ball. Although fast in covering back is inclined to roam too far upfield.

W. J. PHIPPS (*Inside left, Colours 1958*).

A good attacking forward whose stickwork and stopping is excellent. At first inclined to be selfish but later combined very well with the other forwards, especially the left wing. He tends to be slow in shooting at goal when he is in the circle, and must remember to come back in defence.

T. P. N. GREADER (*Left half, Colours 1958*).

A natural hockey player with a very good eye for the ball, and the flair for finding the gaps in the opposition. He must remember to cover back when beaten, though his failure to do so is due to his playing out of position.

K. A. CLARK (*Left wing, Half-colours 1958*).

A new discovery this term who turned out to be one of the best left wings the School has had for years. He is very good at beating his man and has a hard centre, but should attempt a shot at goal himself more often.

D. G. MORRIS (*Centre half, Half-colours 1958*).

As the pivot for the defence he played very well, distributing the ball to both sides of the field. His stopping and tackling are good, and he should form the mainstay of the defence next season.

A. W. THISTLEWOOD (*Right half, Half-colours 1958*).

A player who has greatly improved since last season. He is a very quick tackler and fast at covering back when beaten. The most attacking of the half backs he has combined well with the forwards.

P. J. D. ANDERSON (*Goalkeeper, Half-colours 1958*).

Although starting the season rather shakily he has steadily improved and has overcome his habit of mis-kicking. He must try and be quicker in clearing the ball from the circle.

J. A. LONGWORTH (*Centre forward, Half-colours 1958*).

He has improved during the season, and at the end of it was giving the opposition little time to clear the ball. He is inclined to fiddle once in the circle instead of shooting, though when he does shoot he hits the ball hard.

R. J. TRENAMAN (*Right wing, Half-colours 1958*).

Although prone to 'off-days' he has proved a good attacking winger with a very hard centre. He combined well with his inside and they formed a good partnership but unfortunately few goals were forthcoming.

J. T. UTIN (*Inside right, Half-colours 1958*).

A good inside forward who has improved during the season, and whose stickwork is excellent. He has combined well with the other forwards and is perhaps the most constructive among them. He is inclined to hang back too much, and is not often enough in the circle to shoot.

R.M.K.

FIRST ELEVEN MATCHES

Sat., 1st February v. St. Edward's School "A" XI (a). Lost 1—4.

Good stickwork by the fast St. Edward's forwards seemed to overawe the School defence for the first few minutes. After the first shock, however, the defence played well but St. Edward's were leading 2—1 at half-time. In the second half the game was very even in midfield but the School forwards did not make enough of their chances. St. Edward's scored two more goals by good following-up and the final score was 4—1.

Goal scorer: Longworth.

Wed., 5th February v. Wallingford G.S. (h). Lost 0—3.

For the first ten minutes honours were even but Wallingford's fast forwards scored twice in two minutes, after this the defence panicked and Wallingford added another goal before half-time. In the second half the defence settled down and played well to keep Wallingford out. For most of the game the School forwards were ineffective and did not show much spirit or anticipation.

Wed., 12th February v. Radley College 2nd XI (a). Won 7—0.

For the first time this season the forwards took advantage of the good conditions and were on top for the whole game. Following a series of dangerous raids on the left, Utin scored from a fast centre by Clark and two more goals followed quickly before half-time.

In the second half, continuous pressure by the forwards brought four more goals including a very good "hat-trick" by Phipps. The left wing pair Phipps and Clark played excellently.

Goal scorers: Phipps 4, Utin 2, Longworth.

Sat., 15th February v. Solihull School (h). Lost 0—2.

This was the hardest-fought game of the season. Both teams played very well in midfield but the Solihull forwards were more dangerous in front of goal. In the first few minutes the Solihull centre forward caught the defence unawares and scored a very good goal. Although the School forwards found gaps in the Solihull defence, the goalkeeper saved the day with several fine saves. The second half followed the same pattern with Solihull scoring an early goal. At the end the School forwards were just getting on top, and moving better as a line. Morris was outstanding in the School defence.

Wed. 26th February v. Old College, Sandhurst. Drawn 2—2.

The School opened very strongly and Longworth scored two goals in the first ten minutes. After this setback Sandhurst came into the picture more and scored before half-time. Unfortunately the School defence was badly disorganised when Kennedy had to leave the field after being struck on the head following a wild clearance. In the second half Sandhurst were well on top but only managed to score once and that was due to a defensive error. Greader played very well in the School defence and Anderson kept goal safely.

Wed., 5th March v. The Staff (h). Won 6—0.

Two very quick goals by Trenaman unsettled the Staff for the whole game. The School were well on top for the whole of the game, although the Staff came very near to scoring on two occasions in the second half; only desperate defensive play kept them out.

Goal scorers: Phipps, Trenaman 2, Longworth, Utin 1.

Sat., 8th March v. Bloxham School. Won 5—1.

Although the School was attacking the whole of the first half only one goal was scored. The forwards were combining well and being well backed-up by Greader and Thistlewood. Continuous attacking in the second half brought four more goals including Phipps' second "hat-trick" of the season.

Goal scorers: Phipps 3, Longworth, Utin 1.

Sat., 15th March v. King Alfred's School, Wantage. Lost 1—7.

The game started in fairly good conditions, with the teams evenly matched. Wantage scored first, but the School soon replied with a fine individual effort by Clark. By now conditions had deteriorated and the rest of the game was played in a blizzard. A mix up in the defence allowed Wantage to score again before half-time. In the second half the School was completely unable to overcome the conditions, and with the blizzard against them went completely to pieces. Wantage were allowed to score five more goals, and the School suffered its heaviest defeat of the season.

P.E.J.F.

1st Eleven Team

Anderson, P. J. D.; R. M. Kennedy, P. E. J. Fitzsimons; Thistlewood, A. W., Morris, D. G., T. P. N. Greader; Trenaman, R. J., Utin, J. T., Longworth, J. A., W. J. Phipps, Clark, K. A.

Also played: Perry (3 times); Simpson, Baldwin (once).

2nd Eleven Team

Kingston; Bragg, Rhys; Crow, Simpson (Capt.), Perry; Ford (P. J.), Paxman, Baldwin, Peedell, Freedman.

Also played: Cross (3 times).

Results of 2nd Eleven Matches

v. St. Edwards 'B' XI (h).	Won 2—0
v. Radley College 3rd XI (h).	Won 3—1
v. Radley College 3rd XI (h)	Won 2—0
v. Solihull 2nd XI (h)	Lost 1—4
v. Bloxham 2nd XI (a)	Won 2—1

P.E.J.F.

ATHLETICS

This Lent Term was the most successful Athletic season we have had for many years. The weather although unpleasantly cold did not seriously interrupt the training of the keen athletes; and Cross Country helped greatly in the initial stages.

Mr. Smithson's 'practice' 330 yards track, an innovation to Waste Court Field, had the advantage of being the correct shape and of having four lanes all round. A similar, but quarter-mile, track was laid out on the War Memorial Field and was voted one of our best. Thank you, Mr. Smithson.

The Senior and Junior teams remained unbeaten by any other School and to judge from the Standards, which were again run off prior to Sports Day, the general level of Athletics was higher than in previous years. Unhappily, an exception to this must be mentioned. Relay racing presented a problem: team skill, intelligent anticipation, indeed plain common sense, were sadly lacking and disqualification of our Relay team in the match against the Old Abingdonians lost us an unbeaten record. It is evident that relay running requires much more practice—a warning to future teams!

During the term, Full Colours were awarded to J. A. T. Saywell, D. G. Darroch, D. T. L. Eke and R. W. Harvey. Half-Colours were awarded to R. B. Scott-Taggart, A. P. Paxman, G. G. Ganf, K. R. Duly and J. M. Milne.

MATCHES

v. Bloxham School (Wednesday, 12th March)

At Bloxham we started the meeting as snow began to fall, and it took only a few minutes for the track and field to be whitened by a blizzard, which continued throughout the afternoon. In these conditions, D. T. L. Eke's 880 yards victory in 2 minutes 6·4 seconds, his win in the Steeplechase and G. G. Ganf's 10·8 seconds in the Senior 100 yards and Junior Discus throw of 131 feet 9 inches were quite outstanding achievements. By winning sixteen of the twenty events and coming second in half as many again the School gained a substantial victory.

Senior

100 yards: 1—Ganf; 2—Scott-Adie (B); 3—Davies; 10·8 secs.
 440 yards: 1—Butler (B); 2—Saywell; 3—Kemp-Potter (B); 55 secs.
 880 yards: 1—Eke; 2—Scott-Taggart; 3—Olley (B); 2 mins. 6·4 secs.
 Mile: 1—Harvey; 2—Stevenson (B); 3—Ledger (B); 4mins. 56 secs.
 Steeplechase [1,500 metres]: 1—Eke; 2—Stevenson (B); 3—Olley (B);
 5 mins. 0·9 secs.
 High Jump: 1—Jones (B); 2—Peedell; 3—Roberts (B); 5ft. 1in.
 Long Jump: 1—Tuck; 2—Roberts (B); 3—Silvey; 17ft. 11½in.
 Weight: 1—Darroch; 2—Adey (B); 3—Rodgers (B); 43ft. 9in.
 Discus: 1—Darroch; 2—Scott-Taggart; 3—Stevenson (B); 89ft. 11½in.
 Javelin: 1—Jones (B); 2—Adey (B); 3—Paxman; 123ft. 4in.
 Abingdon—51 points; Bloxham—37 points.

Junior

100 yards: 1—Ford; 2—Mence (B); 3—Milne; 11 secs.
 440 yards: 1—Ganf; 2—Mence (B); 3—Stuart-Lyon; (no time taken).

880 yards: 1—Riddick; 2—Scott (B); 3—Luker; 2 mins. 19.2 secs.
 High Jump: 1—Houghton; 2—Sadler (B); 3—Another (B); 4ft. 8in.
 Long Jump: 1—Milne; 2—Carpenter; 3—Scott (B); 18ft. 3½in.
 Weight: 1—Ford; 2—Long; 3—Smith (B); 40ft. 9in.
 Discus: 1—Ganf; 2—Wyatt; 3—Wells (B); 131ft. 3in.
 Javelin: 1—White (B); 2—Milne; 3—Ford; 140ft. 3in.

Abingdon—58 points; Bloxham—21 points.

v. City of Oxford School (Saturday, 18th March)

This meeting made history as our most complete win over C.O.S. since we began running against them. Losing the Relay made the margin of points in the Senior Match rather meagre but the victory was the more satisfying knowing that our opponents were fielding most of the strong team which soundly beat us last year. We managed to come first, second and third in both the Junior 100 yards (B) and the Senior Mile. M. D. Tuck's jump of 18 feet 11½ inches deserves mention..

Senior

100 yards: 1—Davis; 2—Burnett (O); 3—Palmer (O); 11 secs.
 220 yards: 1—Davis; 2—Jarman (O); 3—Ford; 25.1 secs.
 440 yards: 1—Burnett (O); 2—Saywell; 3—Paxman; 55.8 secs.
 880 yards: 1—Eke; 2—Tate (O); 3—Moore (O); 2 mins. 10.9 secs.
 Mile: 1—Harvey; 2—Duly; 3—Eke; 5 mins.
 High Jump: 1—Feedell; 2—Coleman (O); 3—Cahalin (O); 5ft.
 Long Jump: 1—Tuck; 2—Jarman (O); 3—Sterne (O); 18ft. 11½in.
 Weight: 1—Darroch; 2—Coleman (O); 3—Ford; 42ft. 9in.
 Discus: 1—Darroch; 2—Burnett (O); 3—Coleman (O); 102ft. 3in.
 Javelin: 1—Dossett (O); 2—Cahalin (O); 3—Milne; 118ft. 6in.

Abingdon—50 points; C.O.S.—47 points.

Junior

100 yards A: 1—Ganf; 2—Carpenter; 3—Burke (O); 11.3 secs.
 100 yards B: 1—Luker; 2—Stuart-Lyon; 3—Smith; 11.7 secs.
 440 yards: 1—Ganf; 2—Stuart-Lyon; 3—Davis (O); 58.1 secs.
 880 yards: 1—Riddick; 2—Luker; 3—Gibbens (O); 2 mins. 21.1 secs.
 High Jump: 1—Gibbens (O); 2—Davies (O); 3—Houghton; 4ft. 9½in.
 Long Jump: 1—Carpenter; 2—Davies (O); 3—Cousins (O); 16ft. 10½in.
 Weight: 1—Ganf and Long; 3—Haywood (O); 38ft. 5½in.
 Discus: 1—Ganf; 2—Jarvis (O); 3—Gerring; 124ft. 2in.

Abingdon—55 points; C.O.S.—19½ points.

v. Southfield School (Wednesday, 19th March)

A third victory was obtained in this match. Both the School's Senior and Under Fifteen 880 yards records were broken. D. T. L. Eke ran the Senior event in 2 minutes 6.6 seconds and R. C. Luker ran his race in 2 minutes 19.6 seconds. G. G. Ganf won all his five events including the Senior 100 yards; and the Secretary, D. G. Darroch, continued his series of double victories in the Weight and Discus. Cundy, of Southfield School, produced the greatest achievement in the Field events when he won the High Jump with 5 feet 6½ inches.

Senior

100 yards: 1—Ganf; 2—Bell (S); 3—Davis; 11.3 secs.
 220 yards: 1—Bell (S); 2—Davis; 3—Ford; 24.7 secs.
 440 yards: 1—Saywell; 2—Thurling (S); 3—Cundy (S); 55.3 secs.
 880 yards: 1—Eke; 2—Scott-Taggart; 3—Cross; 2 mins. 6.6 secs.
 Mile: 1—Harvey; 2—Duly; 3—House (S); 4 mins. 57.2 secs.
 High Jump: 1—Cundy (S); 2—Lewis (S); 3—Kingston; 5ft. 6in.
 Long Jump: 1—Townsend (S); 2—Thistlewood; 3—Milne; 18ft. 8in.
 Weight: 1—Darroch; 2—John (S); 3—Ford; 42ft. 5½in.
 Discus: 1—Darroch; 2—Molan (S); 3—Wyatt; 108ft. 3in.
 Javelin: 1—Ford; 2—Paxman and Milne; 141ft. 8in.

Abingdon—54½ points; Southfield—42½ points.

Junior

100 yards: 1—Luker; 2—Stuart-Lyon; 3—Smith; 11.8 secs.
 220 yards: 1—Ganf; 2—Luker; 3—French (S); 25.1 secs.
 440 yards: 1—Ganf; 2—Stuart-Lyon; 3—Chalwin (S); 58.2 secs.
 880 yards: 1—Luker; 2—Riddick; 3—Cross (S); 2 mins. 19.6 secs.
 High Jump: 1—Houghton; 2—Elvin (S); 3—Underwood (S); 5ft.
 Long Jump: 1—Carpenter; 2—Summers (S); 3—Owen (S); 16ft. 5in.
 Weight: 1—Ganf; 2—Long; 3—Molloy (S); 38ft. 1in.
 Discus: 1—Ganf; 2—Evans (S); 3—Johnson (S); 115ft.

Abingdon—55 points; Southfield—24 points.

v. Old Abingdonians (Saturday, 22nd March)

In Arctic conditions and on ground which after weeks without rain had become rock hard, the Old Boys with a small but excellent team beat the School quite convincingly. Eight of the ten events were won by them. Particularly notable were Pat Sale's victories in both the 880 yards and Mile in very good times; Bob Gammack who just managed to hold off J. A. T. Saywell to win the 440 yards and Neil Darroch whose Weight Putting and Discus Throwing efforts made him the first person to beat his brother, D. G. Darroch, this year. The meeting was

a neck and neck affair up to the Discus event when both teams were level on points. Victory, however, was snatched from within our grasp when the School Relay Team was disqualified.

100 yards: 1—Ganf; 2—Darroch (OA); 3—Gammack (OA); 11.2 secs.

440 yards: 1—Gammack (OA); 2—Saywell; 3—Griffith (OA); 54.5 secs.

880 yards: 1—Sale (OA); 2—Eke; 3—Scott-Taggart; 2 mins. 4.8 secs.

Mile: 1—Sale (OA); 2—Harvey; 3—Duly; 4 mins. 54.2 secs.

High Jump: 1—Young (OA); 2—Peedell and Kingston; 5ft. 2½ in.

Long Jump: 1—Gardner (OA); 2—Thistlewood; 3—Tuck; 18ft. 1 in.

Weight: 1—Darroch (OA); 2—Darroch; 3—Ford; 49ft. 9 in.

Discus: 1—Darroch (OA); 2—Darroch; 3—Wastie (OA); 111ft. 6 in.

Javelin: 1—Paxman; 2—Ford; 3—Darroch (OA); 144ft. 6 in.

School 37 points; O.A.s—52 points.

THE SCHOOL SPORTS

This year the School Sports took place upon two days, Wednesday 26th and Saturday, 29th March, thus enabling a number of new events to be competed for. Neither day had good weather but the rain which threatened did not come to dampen the proceedings. No records were broken although D. T. L. Eke ran the Open 880 yards once again in record time.

Tesdale House, already victors of the "Standards" competition completed before the Sports, won the Ladies of Abingdon Cup for the third year in succession. Good athletes from this house were represented in all the age groups and thus they managed to claim all but three of the track victories and over half the field events. Included in their twenty-three first places were all the 100 and 220 yards races. Their nineteen second places helped them to score 212 points during the Sports alone.

R. C. Luker created a precedent by winning all his five events thus scoring the maximum number of points (25) and well deserving the Shallard Cup for the Junior gaining the most points in the Sports. The Heber-Clarke Challenge Cup, the Senior equivalent, was shared by G. G. Ganf and J. M. Milne (17 points).

The Challenge Cups and certificates were presented by Mrs. Hoyle after the conclusion of the Sports from the War Memorial Pavilion.

Results

100 yards [Under 12]: 1—Johnson, A. E.; 2—Jennings; 3—James, P. G.
14.2 secs.

100 yards [Under 13]: 1—Blair; 2—Rozier; 3—Marsh; 13.2 secs.

100 yards [Under 14]: 1—Talbot; 2—Hall, G. A.; 3—Hall, R. A.; 12.1 secs.

100 yards [Under 15]: 1—Luker; 2—Stuart-Lyon; 3—Smith, R. L.; 11·8 secs.

100 yards Open: 1—Ganf; 2—Davis; 3—Ford; 10·9 secs.

220 yards [Under 12]: 1—Johnson, A. E.; 2—Jennings; 3—Barrett; 32·4 secs.

220 yards [Under 13]: 1—Blair; 2—Brown; 3—Gardner; 31·4 secs.

220 yards [Under 14]: 1—Talbot; 2—Hall, G. A.; 3—Ford, M. S.; 28 secs.

220 yards [Under 15]: 1—Luker; 2—Smith, R. L.; 3—Stuart-Lyon; 26·1 secs.

220 yards Open: 1—Ganf; 2—Davis; 3—Saywell; 25·2 secs.

440 yards [Under 13]: 1—Joseph; 2—Barrett; 3—Cheary; 72 secs.

440 yards [Under 14]: 1—Hall, G. A.; 2—Talbot; 3—Ford, M. S.; 64·9 secs.

440 yards [Under 15]: 1—Luker; 2—Smith, R. L.; 3—Stuart-Lyon; 58·2 secs.

440 yards Open: 1—Saywell; 2—Cross; 3—Davis; 55 secs.

880 yards [Under 15]: 1—Keeyes; 2—Wilson; 3—Crumly; 2 mins. 38·7 secs.

880 yards [Under 16]: 1—Luker; 2—Matson; 3—Webb; 2 mins. 23·9 secs.

880 yards Open: 1—Eke; 2—Scott-Taggart; 3—Cross; 2 mins. 6·6 secs.

Mile [Under 15]: 1—Luker; 2—Matson; 3—Henson, M. K.; 5 mins. 29·1 secs.

Mile Open: 1—Harvey, R. W.; 2—Scott-Taggart; 3—Duly; 4 mins. 52·9 secs.

High Jump [Und. 13]: 1—Hall, R. A.; 2—Johnson, A. E.; 3—Blair; 4ft. 1in.

High Jump [Und. 14]: 1—Hall, G. A.; 2—Hall, T. I.; 3—Johnson, A. E. 4ft. 4in

High Jump [Und. 15]: 1—Nash; 2—Stuart-Lyon; 3—Hall, T. I.; 4ft. 8½in.

High Jump Open: 1—Peedell; 2—Trenaman; 3—Houghton; 5ft. 1½in.

Long Jump [Und. 14]: 1—Hall, G. A.; 2—Leather; 3—Cable; 13ft. 9in.

Long Jump [Und. 15]: 1—Nash; 2—Stuart-Lyon; 3—Matson; 14ft. 11in.

Long Jump Open: 1—Milne; 2—Tuck; 3—Carpenter; 18ft. 7½in.

Weight [Under 15]: 1—Gerring; 2—Rosevear; 3—Stockwell; 33ft. $\frac{1}{2}$ in.
 Weight [Under 16]: 1—Ganf; 2—Wooldridge; 3—Milne; 39ft. 1in.
 Weight Open: 1—Darroch; 2—Dunman; 3—Ford; 41ft. 7in.

Discus [Under 15]: 1—Gerring; 2—Talbot; 3—Haarhoff; 93ft. 2in.
 Discus [Under 16]: 1—Milne; 2—Wooldridge; 3—Carpenter; 106ft. 4in.
 Discus Open: 1—Darroch; 2—Scott-Taggart; 3—Ford; 104ft. 4in.

Javelin Open: 1—Milne; 2—Paxman; 3—Ford; 138ft. 11in.

Relays:

Medley (220 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards, 880 yards): 1—Tesdale;
 2—Blacknall; 3—Reeves; 3 mins. 56.5 secs.

Junior (8 x 220 yards): 1—Tesdale.

Senior (8 x 220 yards): 1—Tesdale; 2—Blacknall; 3—Bennett.
 J.A.T.S.

MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS' MEETING

(Birmingham, 2nd April)

This year only a small team travelled to Birmingham and achieved limited success. D. G. Darroch did well to gain second place in the Shot with a putt of 42 feet 9 inches—he was beaten by only one other putt, the winner's 42 feet 11 inches—and J. A. T. Saywell after winning his heat in the 440 yards, was placed fifth in the Final, won in 53.6 secs. The remaining members of the School team were: P. R. Davis (100 and 220 yards), M. D. Tuck (Long Jump), R. W. Harvey (Mile).

D.O.W.

CROSS COUNTRY

The School has every reason to be proud of the Club's performance in this their first year of competitive running.

The first fixture was a triangular match with Radley and St. Edward's, run at Radley in a mist which cut visibility to a hundred yards. Harvey, R. W., ran very well to take second place behind the Radley Captain who broke their course record, and Bretscher, M. S., came fifth. Sheard, Scott-Taggart and Eke packed well to take tenth, eleventh and twelfth places, but Radley with five runners in the first eight were comfortable winners with a total of 36 points. Abingdon were second with 55, and St. Edward's third with 88 points.

Our 3½-mile Sunningwell course was opened with a match against King Alfred's, Wantage, and resulted in an unexpectedly easy victory

by 29 points to 56. R. W. Harvey's winning time of 21 minutes 57½ seconds remains a record, and our other scorers were: Bretscher 3, Eke 4, Duly 6, Sheard 7, and Jones, G. W. 8.

Against Reading School, also at home, the benefit of hard hill-training was seen. The fast pace set by Eke cracked most of our visitors on the second hill, and turned possible defeat into victory by 30 points to 48. Our scorers were: Harvey, R. W. 1, Bretscher 3, Duly 5, Eke 6, Jones 7 and Scott-Taggart 8.

On 8th March we entered a team for the 4 x 2 mile Road Relay Race organised by Culham Training College, in which six teams started. Harvey, R. W., and Duly raised our hopes by giving us a lead at the half-way stage, but Scott-Taggart and Eke were up against two men from King Alfred's College, Winchester, who put up the two fastest times of the day, so we had to be content with second place.

It was unfortunate that both Bretscher (Captain), and Sheard (Secretary) were injured near the end of the season, but all credit to them for their hard work and inspiration which has given cross country such a good start. Our thanks are also due to all those who helped in the organisation of our home fixtures, and acted as markers, road patrols and officials at the finish.

Athletic Half-colours were awarded to Harvey, R. W., and Bretscher, and other members of the team received similar distinction for their performances in Cross Country and Athletics matches combined.

The following ran for the School on more than one occasion: Bretscher, M. S., Day, J. J., Duly, Eke, Harvey, M. R., Harvey, R. W., Jones, G. W., Scott-Taggart and Sheard.

R.H.B.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Weather conditions interfered with Junior rugger fixtures to the extent of cutting 'Under 15' games to three and 'Under 14' to two. Of these, both 'Under 14' matches proved to be good victories but the more senior team fared less happily. Both teams must improve their play in the centre to become really effective but it is pleasing to know that most of the 'Under 15' XV will again play together next season in the projected 'Under 16' side. Results of matches were as follows:

Wed., 29th January: U/14 XV v. Radley College (a). Won 6—0

Sat., 1st February: U/15 XV v. Thame G.S. (h). Lost 3—11

Wed., 5th February: U/15 XV v. Reading School (h). Won 19—6

Sat., 15th February: U/15 XV v. Stoneham School (a). Lost 0—11

Sat., 15th February: U/14 XV v. Stoneham School (a). Won 14—3

JUNIOR HOUSE MATCHES

The Junior Houses competed in a knock-out contest, which as reported in the last issue of the 'Abingdonian' will henceforth absorb two previous competitions—the Junior Knock-out of the Michaelmas Term and the 'Under 14' Knock-out of the Lent Term. This term, Bennett House proved to be fairly comfortable winners by defeating Blacknall 12—6 and Reeves 17—6, Reeves having earlier routed Tesdale to the tune of 36—0.

'UNDER 13' RUGGER LEAGUE

In spite of a number of postponements, all matches in the League were played off. Blacknall House proved worthy winners of the Candy Cup, gaining most of their victories by handsome scores. Reeves House, the runners up, were the only team to defeat Blacknall during the series of games. Final points were: Blacknall 9, Reeves 8, Tesdale 6 and Bennett 1. Bennett House, although they lost all but one of their games, nonetheless held Blacknall to a 3 point draw on that one occasion.

VACATION RUGGER

On Easter Monday, a 'Seven' from the School was entered for the Colts' Seven-a-side Competition organized by Windsor R.F.C. We managed to get through the first round by defeating Windsor School 18—0, but succumbed to our old rivals, R.G.S., High Wycombe after a keen struggle (6—10) in the second round. R.G.S. went on to reach the semi-final in what proved to be an excellent afternoon's sport. The School 'Seven' was composed of Ganf, Saywell, Paxman, Peedell, Dimond, Jouault, Fitzsimons, with Hamilton as reserve.

As a follow-up of his County rugger games last Christmas vacation, Ganf played for S.E. Region against S.W. Region at Gloucester in February. Although he failed on that occasion to be selected for higher honours, he must be congratulated upon the successes he did achieve.

D.O.W.

MINOR GAMES

Fives has been the most active minor sport this Lent term. An inter-House competition has been played off which Bennett won comfortably without the loss of a game. Results were: Reeves beat Blacknall; Bennett beat Tesdale; and in the final, Bennett beat Reeves (1st Pairs. 15—9, 15—13; 2nd Pairs: 15—11, 16—14).

Two Junior matches have also been played against Bloxham School and Radley College. The former was lost heavily but in the latter, against players of the same age, our team showed considerable improvement and only lost 71—90. Teams were as follows:

'Under 15' Fives IV (v. Bloxham)—Veysey (Capt.), Marsh, T. A., Rosevear, Henson, M. K.

'Under 14' Fives IV (v. Radley)—Veysey (Capt.), Marsh, T. A., Rosevear, Fairlie, J. A.

Finally, we should like to thank Sq.Ldr. Cork for the presentation of a Senior House Cup, which has already been won by Blacknall House.

Tennis has been played regularly on Sunday afternoons in preparation for next term's matches. N.G.C.N.

(We congratulate the Captain of Tennis, Nigel Norman, on reaching the finals of the Oxford Open Junior Lawn Tennis Championships, and regret his defeat 4—6, 6—2, 3—6. Ed.).

ROWING

Two VIII's and three IV's have been in serious training this term, and some thirty junior oarsmen have also been afloat as often as weather conditions have permitted, which means unfortunately not often enough! However, despite snow, ice and floods only one day's training was missed during the term.

The 1st VIII, although a light crew, developed very well and shows signs of being really fast. In the Reading University Head of the River Race on 15th March it returned a time of 16 mins. 51 secs. taking third place in the Public Schools for the Bourne Cup. This was won by Westminster—16 mins. 40 secs.—with St. Edward's School second in 16 mins. 48 secs. Our overall placing was 27th in the shell divisions, equal with R.M.A. Sandhurst. This was a very good performance, especially since our entry for this race was a new departure for the Club, and an extremely enjoyable occasion. Our thanks are due once again to John Bury—President of the O.A.C.—for helping us with transport.

The 2nd VIII have trained very hard and should do well if they can co-ordinate their efforts more successfully, and the 'fours' have also attained a satisfactory standard.

We must wait until next term however to see how successful our change over from fours to eights has been, and merely say now that the signs are encouraging.

1st VIII: Bow—M. S. R. Broadway; 2—R. L. Antrobus; 3—N. G. Mackenzie; 4—D. J. Meakins; 5—J. H. Thewlis; 6—A. J. Costley; 7—R. K. Le Voi; Stroke—I. A. Oliver; Cox—N. W. Pridham.

R.G.M.

COMBINED CADET FORCE

A quiet term devoted wholly to preparation for Cert. 'A' exams. We look for results as good as in the past. By this time next year, a new syllabus, involving a number of changes, will be in force; the prospect of having, perhaps, to cope with this, should be an incentive to all candidates to revise hard for their exam.

Field Day was held on 20th March, in fine, cold weather. It was impossible to arrange a separate specialist day for the R.E. Section, who had to join the main body—and on the whole, acquitted themselves well. The Signal Section were used, for the first time, to give early warning of enemy approach; we hope that soon they will be able to take a full part in our exercises. Four attacking forces, operating over fair distances, all made contact successfully with their enemy. The R.A. Section broke new ground by having an exercise in conjunction with the R.A. Section of Radley College.

Our thanks are again due to B.S.M. Gardner, of O.U.O.T.C., for his work with the R.A. Section, also Major Alcock and L/Cpl. Biddolph, of the School of Military Survey, for training the R.E. Section. In this connection, it is earnestly hoped that a start will be made with Survey training in the Summer term. We had one visit, also, from 15 Travelling Wing, to "punch up" the N.C.O.'s Cadre.

During term, the following promotions were made:

to be C.Q.M.S. i/c B Coy.—Sgt. King.

to be Sgt. i/c D Coy.—Cpl. Gray.

to be Sgt.—L/Sgt. Wintle.

S.C.P.

R.N. SECTION

In some ways this has been a disappointing term. The standard of both written and oral parts of the Proficiency Tests has been lamentably low, with the result that no cadet passed Part II, a state of affairs which we have not had for several years. It must be emphasised that much of the theoretical work has to be done by the individual himself, and that he cannot hope to pass unless he does some extra work on his own.

Most of the term has been spent in two groups, one doing navigation, and the other signals. It is hoped to arrange examinations early next term in these subjects.

One of the best Field Days of recent years was held at H.M.S. Excellent. "Whaley" put on a good show for us, with a short time in the battle teacher, when some of us had a brief experience of manning a gun under something approximating to battle conditions, and a visit to Fraser range, where we watched, and heard, short range weapons

being fired, and fired them ourselves in the Dome teacher, and saw some of the gunnery radar carried by modern warships. We are grateful to H.M.S. Excellent for a most instructive day, and particularly so to Lieutenant-Commander B. W. F. Crofts for arranging it and for looking after us very well on the day itself.

We should also like to record our gratitude to our Parent Establishment, in the person of Lieutenant-Commander M. Golding, for the very considerable help they have given to us with our stores.

L.C.J.G.

SCOUT TROOP

This term has been a quiet one for the Troop. Much ordinary badge work has been done and eight Scouts have been invested. Field Day was spent at Cothill where, despite the cold, a good time was had by all including those who went fossil hunting in a nearby quarry.

Next term will see preparations for summer camp when we hope to visit the Cotswolds again.

Mention must be made of the retirement of Mr. E. R. Bailey as District Commissioner, a post he has held for sixteen years. We wish him a well-earned rest from his scouting activities.

We were glad to be able to contribute a substantial sum to the Baden Powell Memorial Fund.

M.N.W.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

Our best thanks go to Mr. V. C. Buckley for his gift of two old County maps, beautifully framed, for the adornment of the Young room. We regret that we failed to acknowledge in our last issue Mr. Ingham's gift of *Great Scientists*, and offer our apologies. Many thanks also to Mr. Williams for *A Stranger in Spain*; W. W. Budden for *Physical Geography*; G. C. Crow for *Just Jazz*; J. M. Mobbs for *Bugles and Tiger*; J. McPherson, O.A., for *Iraq Petroleum Journals* and Mrs. Morland for *The Bible as Literature*. The Royal Numismatic Society has sent us two more interesting books on Roman and British Coins under the Marshall Bequest, and H. B. Healy, O.A., another volume of Churchill's *History of the English Speaking Peoples*. W. H. Stevens, O.A., and various bodies, too numerous to mention, continue to supply the Library with interesting journals and literature. To all we say "Thank you, very much".

G.F.D.

THE LAKE DISTRICT, 1958

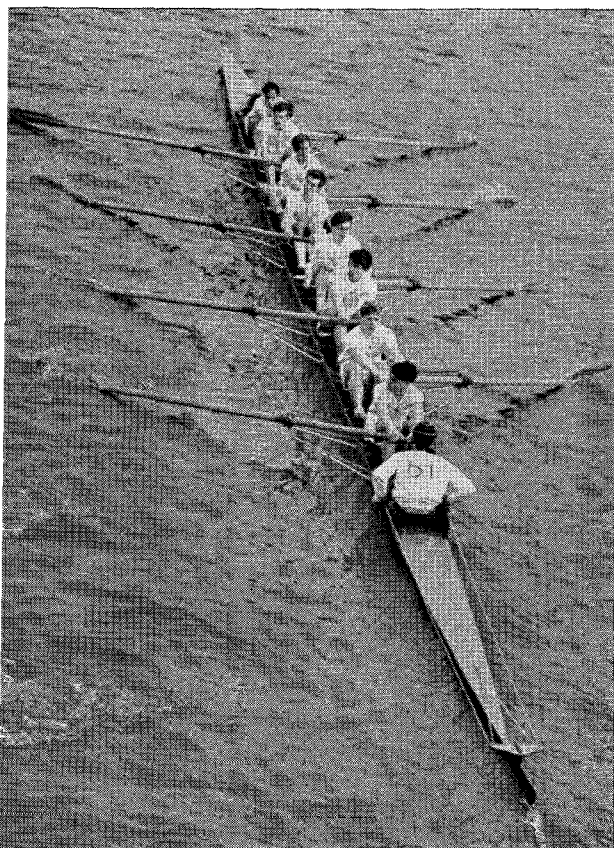
The second Expedition of the Skye Group, which took place during the Easter holidays, was to the Lake District. As direct successor to the visit to Skye, it was conducted with the same end in view—to take part in practical field work outside the laboratory in conditions which would promote mental and physical alertness. The Group consisted of Mr. Blagden, Mr. Talbot, M. S. Bretscher, E. R. L. Day, C. T. Denniford, C. M. Dunman, P. M. D. Gray, A. L. Howell, R. Kennedy, D. P. Kirk, D. J. Meakins, R. B. Scott-Taggart and S. M. Womar. There were three botanists and nine geologists. Denniford, the odd man out, was the cameraman, and no aspect of camp life was safe from his peeping lens. It was found that thirteen people was the maximum number if the Group was not to lose the unity which is one of its great attractions.

The camp site was not chosen until most of the party had arrived, but it had been provisionally fixed by a 'recce' of three members in January as being in the vicinity of Wasdale Head. It lay in an ideal setting by a mountain stream, and the location proved to be as suitable as it first looked. We quickly settled into routine and both scientific groups went to work with enthusiasm. The geologists had been greatly helped in advance by Dr. Brown and Mr. Monkhouse of the University of Oxford Department of Geology, so that this branch of the Expedition's activities was carried out more effectively than in Skye. Geology is likely to become increasingly the main work of the Group since it can be carried out at any time, whereas botanical surveys are limited by the season.

Activities ranged over the Borrowdale volcanic series, its mineral veins and intrusions, including the Eskdale granites and Ennerdale granophyre. The Skiddaw slate region, the only sedimentary rock in the area, was also visited but no trilobites were found. Specimens of all these were labelled and brought back to be discussed and checked by Dr. Brown.

The botanists again concentrated on the mosses and liverworts, of which they had had experience in Skye. There were outings both for sections and for the whole Group and here again there was a difference from Skye for more ground was covered by excursions from the camp, and scientific work gave place to fell walking when the attractions of beautiful scenery became too great. It was partly due to this that all the surrounding peaks were climbed by members of the Group. Scafell, Scafell Pike, Gable, Green Gable and Pillar were the most notable of the conquests, and the only height which was not subdued in the neighbourhood was Ling Mell and this was only due to lack of time.

Another exercise in which the Group unexpectedly took part was 'Mountain Rescue'. The advance party of four was called out soon after its arrival, to assist in bringing down an injured man off Lord's



1st VIII
(Reading: 15th March)

Bow: M. S. R. Broadway

2: R. L. Antrobus

3: N. G. Mackenzie

4: D. J. Meakins

5: J. H. Thewlis

6: A. J. Costley

7: R. K. Le Voi

Stroke: I. A. Oliver

Cox: N. W. Pridham



WASTE COURT (see page 197)



THE LAKES, 1958



Rake, a climb on Scafell. Unfortunately he died from his injuries before a doctor arrived at the scene of the accident. The day before departure the whole Group helped to bring down a girl who had bruised and cut herself in a fall from Nape's Needle, but who, luckily, was not severely injured.

At Easter the number of people in the area increased enormously and it was remarked that the path near the camp at times resembled Piccadilly Circus. However the rush hour was soon over and it was possible to walk the hills meeting only sheep and not flocks of climbers. The hotel where provisions were obtained was conveniently placed a mile away down the valley and in the quiet periods we made good friends of Mr. Pharaoh, the owner, and his wife.

The camp itself was made up of six tents, one for the boys, one for the masters, another for cooking, another for stores, and two for eating and sitting in. There were no huts as in Skye on which to fall back in disaster, but no disaster materialised. We missed, too, the enormous supply of driftwood for fires, and all cooking had to be done on Primuses; since on any normal day only two of these could be coaxed into action, good service called for ingenuity and timing on the part of the cooks.

The weather was one of the best features of the camp. Much thought had been given to the problem of drying clothes, which we feared would be soaked by the notorious Lake District rain, yet the foulest weather encountered was a fall of snow at night and some short sleet showers. Not a drop of rain fell, and indeed, while those at home shivered, we sweltered in shirt-sleeves order to dismantle the camp.

Perhaps the 1958 camp lacked the romance, the solitude and some of the facilities of the Cuillins but it was certainly no less enjoyable. The mountains were not so wild as those of Skye, but presented views of more grandeur and beauty. From Scafell Pike, we saw the Isle of Man, a black strip on the sea gilded in the sunset, over the upthrust towers of Calder Hall and Windscale. The mountain streams and tarns refreshed with their beauty and ice-cold water. All will remember the pleasure of walking and working in such beautiful surroundings.

We should like to thank Mr. Talbot and Mr. Blagden for their invaluable service and advice, Mrs. Talbot for her help with supplies, the School C.C.F., the School and Harwell Scout Troops for the loan of tents and equipment.

R.B.S-T.

3-A GOES TO TOWN

(being [almost] unedited extracts from the recorded impressions of the fourteen third-formers who took part in a demonstration of first-year Greek at University College, London, on 8th March).

. . . At two o'clock we were shown into a little back-stage room where we waited in a very nervous disposition (stage-fright?—no, there was no stage).

. . . One or two, more venturesome than the rest, peered round the door, to return with cries of fear at the large audience.

. . . Soon the Headmaster made his opening speech which was not supposed to be heard by the boys and was not quite.

. . . All very nervous, we took our seats (there were no desks, much to the sorrow of the Headmaster). The audience was mixed and about 250 in number. The room was somewhat like the School Music Room, going up in stages, and we were seated at the bottom with mysterious eyes peering down at us.

. . . To our left were row upon row of seats packed with men and women some of whom were nuns. None of us dared to look up for more than a second at a time for fear of a quick-fire question catching us off our guard.

. . . One or two people made slips but X. and Y. also made laughs which were enjoyed all round. . . . These jokes do not sound very funny here but they sounded most funny in London.

. . . After about quarter of an hour I almost forgot about the audience and it was like a normal lesson, except that when a funny incident arose the audience laughed loudly and then I remembered that they were there.

. . . When we came to the exercises it was quite fun but whenever someone made a mistake I felt as though they were letting us down when really it was only a little mistake.

. . . Leaving Grammar behind us, we rushed at breakneck speed through a couple of exercises and managed, at great expense to our nervous systems, to recover some remnants of our pride. Not resting on our laurels, we carried straight on into the unknown in the form of a piece of Greek translation which we had never seen before. We barged straight through it, the only trouble being that most of the barging through was done by the Headmaster. We occasionally punctuated his translation with helpful 'ums' and 'ahs'.

. . . After what seemed like twenty minutes (and was really forty-two minutes of hard concentration) the Headmaster said "Well, now, what about some singing to warm us up" and then we sang the Greek songs that we know.

... I think the audience enjoyed these songs as they were very loudly clapped.

... They did not throw oranges or eggs or wave their umbrellas at us as the Headmaster had predicted.

... My chief impression of the trip was of a vast amount of feeding, and on our return we had a magnificent tea in the Buffet at Paddington.

... To catch the train for Abingdon after a small tea.

(The School was represented on this occasion by R. N. Carter, B. A. F. Burn, C. J. Dean, L. A. Edwards, R. J. Hutcheon, P. J. Leather, R. A. Lucas, P. S. McK. Ramsey, A. R. Redgrave, D. C. S. Venn, J. R. Veysey, and R. P. Welch; with P. A. Holmes and C. R. Winfield as reserves).

SCHOOL SOCIETIES

ROY SSE SOCIETY

The first meeting of the term took place on 29th January, when C. M. Dunman read a paper on "The Work of Pavlov". He dealt with the experiments conducted by this eminent biologist, with his theories, and their application to life; and stoutly defended the view that life consists of a series of conditioned and unconditioned reflexes. He was later taken up on this point, and discussion was lively and at times a little heated, but neither side succeeded in gaining much ground.

On the 19th of February the Society heard a paper by R. B. Scott-Taggart called "An Aspect of Philosophy". As the title suggests the author attempted to deal with only one side of this complex subject, and he chose the existence of the material world. He put forward several theories, most of which tried to demonstrate that material does not exist at all, but those members who were not familiar with the subject found them rather confusing. Discussion was, however, both serious and lively.

The final meeting of the Society was on 12th March when I. A. Oliver read a paper entitled "Children of the Gods—a Japanese Analysis". He dealt with the historical development of the country, giving a brief sketch of the administration and way of life of the people from the earliest recorded times until the present day, and he showed how the history of the ruling classes had affected the Japanese character and the foreign policy of the nation. We learned a lot from this paper, which provided a pleasant change from more metaphysical fare.

The Society wishes to express its sincere thanks to the Headmaster and Mrs. Cobban for hospitality during the past term.

M.S.R.B.

TURNOR SOCIETY

Despite the fact that this is the shortest term of the school year, the Society has met on four occasions.

At the first meeting Mr. Ernhlé Money spoke to us about "World Affairs". He discussed some of the problem places of the world and assessed how much organisations such as U.N.O. and N.A.T.O. had done to help world affairs.

Then we held an "Any Questions" session, at which the panel was: The Headmaster, K. M. D. Holloway, Esq., and A. A. Hillary, Esq. The answers to questions on subjects as widely varied as politics, shaving and patron saints provided an amusing and instructive meeting.

Mr. Iley of the Midland Bank gave a talk on "The Monetary Situation" at the third meeting. He dealt with some of the problems of today, explaining such terms as "credit squeeze" and "inflation". The world of economics was set before us very clearly in this extremely interesting meeting.

At the final meeting Mr. Saint, one of this year's student masters, spoke to us about his native land, India, and its relations with the Commonwealth. The society thanks Mr. Saint for this very interesting and amusing talk, and we wish him all good fortune when he returns to his home.

R.D.

LITERARY SOCIETY

The first meeting was a very successful 'hotch-potch'. Everyone was asked to arm himself with something literary and likely to provoke discussion. Subjects ranged from Aeschylus to Damon Runyon, from Russian fables to "Vers Libre", and the diversity of the evening's contributions gave all pleasure and amusement.

Virgil, Pope and Agatha Christie came under heavy fire at the second meeting. Each had an attacker and defender and when these had had their say everyone discussed the merits and defects of these writers. R. S. Green came in for some determined floccinaucinihilipilification from M. Q. King, and Virgil weathered the storm as usual. Agatha Christie was condemned as good literature but recommended instead of pheno-barbitone, and Pope was given a place, not among the giants but among the many.

At the last meeting of the term, the secretary read a paper entitled "A Background to Modernism". It covered modernism in the novel, poetry and drama and had the great merit of providing many points for a lively discussion.

The discussion this term has been as good as the refreshments and it is to be hoped that this happy state of affairs will continue.

R.S.G.

DEBATING SOCIETY

At the first meeting of the term J. A. Sheard and C. T. Denniford successfully proposed that "in the opinion of this house a Dayboy's lot is not a happy one". They were opposed by P. M. D. Gray and R. Dickenson, and the number of votes easily exceeded the numbers present.

An amended proposition that "in the opinion of this house a change of Government but not of Party was needed" was passed at our second meeting, when C. M. Dunman and J. A. T. Saywell proposed the motion against the attack of R. T. Moll and R. Sheppard.

At the end of the term a party from St. Helen's School came over to attend the motion that "in the opinion of this house the woman's place is in the home". Mr. J. A. T. Saywell, seconded by Miss Rachel Gale unsuccessfully opposed Miss Christine Podevin and Mr. J. M. Foster in a witty and cultured debate. We hope more such meetings may be arranged.

Under our auspices eight boys attended a debate at the Oxford Union on 13th March. J.A.T.S.

MUSIC SOCIETY

Gramophone programmes this Term have included César Franck's Symphony, Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony, Schumann's First and Fourth Symphonies, and Castelnuovo-Tedesco's Guitar Concerto.

We are grateful to Mr. Fry and Mr. Peter Godfrey—Director of Music at Marlborough—for their Recital on 1st March. This was well attended, and included the Haydn 'Cello Concerto and Kodaly's Concerto for Unaccompanied 'Cello. The Society joined with the Play Reading Society for the "The Pirates of Penzance" on 16th February, where members read the dialogue whilst the music was on tape.

M.Q.K.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

At the Society's first meeting of the term on 7th February, a film "Pattern for Chemicals" was shown.

On 7th March Sq.Ldr. E. H. Pollard (O.A.) gave a lecture on "The helicopter and how it flies". He brought with him a model helicopter rotor head. Although he assured us that a blade had never broken off yet, most of the audience found it safer to sit on the floor while the model was in operation. We are very grateful to Sq.Ldr. Pollard for coming to talk to us.

P. M. D. Gray continued his series of illustrated lectures entitled "How your radio set works" on 14th March. He will conclude this series next term with a talk on "Television" with practical illustrations.

I.A.O.

FILM SOCIETY

The Society met five times during the term. At the first meeting C. T. Denniford spoke on "The film and the public". He discussed the rise of the film as a medium of entertainment, film censorship, recent trends in the cinema, the film and television, and the future of the motion picture.

Mr. J. J. Horrex spoke at the second meeting on "Film appreciation". He emphasised that it was most important that the film should now be appreciated as an art and then went on to say more about the qualities to look for in a good film; there were such things as atmosphere, speed and clarity, and appeal to sentiment and national humour.

The films shown this term were: "Understanding Movies", extracts from "A Street-car Named Desire", "Wages of Fear" and "Trailer 201".

At the last meeting of the term Mr. M. K. C. Grigsby (O.A.) gave a very interesting and illuminating talk on "The free cinema". His talk was illustrated by the films "Mamma Don't Allow", "Nice Time", and "O Dreamland".

P.P.W.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Despite the setbacks in our programme, brought about by the bad weather, we have been able to complete the shooting of "Into the Dark". Our thanks are due to all those who have given us so much help with this film, especially to Mr. and Mrs. Milton who put up with our two units' incursion into their house one Sunday in order to create a fight and an untimely death!

Our editors are becoming more and more aware of the great advantage given us by the rush prints. These make our editing comparatively simple although the School projector occasionally refuses to co-operate.

The Civic Trust and the B.B.C. have seen our colour film, "This is your Town", and have given several helpful suggestions which will help us to complete our film satisfactorily when we have some fine weather.

And now we are beginning to plan for our next big 'documentary' which we hope to produce next year.

C.T.D.

"THE FORUM"

Two meetings of the Society were held during the Lent Term, both of which took the usual form of discussion led by the chairman.

At the first meeting we discussed the implications of the Rochdale By-Election, the advantages of community life and the worth of the British Army compared with its expenditure. J. L. Longworth, in the absence of the Chairman, led the discussion at the second meeting, at which the fourth forms provided the most argumentative and vigorous speakers on a wide range of subjects.

Next term we shall be limiting membership of the Society to thirty, and asking members to attend all meetings. R.D.

MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

During the term, this new Society was launched and two meetings were held. At the first, C. M. Dunman introduced a selection of Russian records which was greatly appreciated, especially as he recounted some of his personal experiences in Russia.

Later in the term, the Society met on a Saturday evening to read Corneille's "Le Cid". Fine reading by the Sponsor and the President was backed up by some good performances of the members.

Next term we hope to establish the Society more firmly among other Sixth Form institutions. J.J.D.

SKYE GROUP

During the Lent Term, E. R. L. Day and P. M. D. Gray were elected members of the Group.

On 31st January, Dr. Brown of Oxford gave a talk on Geology, with special reference to how a geological problem is tackled. This was an extremely useful beginning, as Dr. Brown arranged for a colleague, Mr. Monkhouse, to accompany us to two local quarries. This excursion took place on Sunday, 22nd March in fine weather. Many fossils and some calcite crystals were found. We should like to thank both Dr. Brown and Mr. Monkhouse very warmly for all the help they have given us.

Over the weekend of 8th March, we held a weekend Camp at Dorchester to test the equipment. The night was extremely cold, and probably tested the boys rather than the equipment!

Towards the end of term, we were very busy collecting the equipment and sending it off to the Lake District. A report of the expedition will be found elsewhere. M.S.B.

PLAY READING SOCIETY

In face of competition from television, it was decided during the Lent Term that the Society should have a more definite constitution. At a meeting of all those interested in the future of the Society J. A. Sheard was elected Secretary, and J. A. Longworth, R. Dickenson and R. Moll members of a committee to choose the plays in future.

The plays read during the term were: "St. Joan" by George Bernard Shaw, "The Winslow Boy", and "The Playboy of the Western World" and "Riders to the Sea" by J. Synge. In the Summer Term we are hoping to hold a One-Act Play Reading Competition, as well as reading several plays.

J.A.S.

JAZZ CLUB

This term has been one of the most successful to date for the Club, and we have held three very interesting and instructive meetings. At the first, the Secretary, J. A. Sheard, outlined the development over the past ten years of the Humphrey Lyttelton Band; the second meeting consisted of a lecture by A. F. Pritchard on "Blues and Worksongs", admirably illustrated with authentic recordings; and at the final meeting of the term, I. R. Feedell and N. D. O. Hall presented a wide selection of modern jazz records, entitled "Cat on a Cool Tin Riff": even the most fervent traditionalists were tapping their feet to the music of Dave Brubeck, so perhaps there is something in it after all! At any rate, we now hope to include at least one modern jazz programme each term.

J.A.S.

JOINT CLUB

So far as the activities of the Club are concerned, the term has been successful and pleasant. Our first meeting was a social in Lacies Court, and consisted mostly of dancing and games. Fortunately everyone joined in and seemed to enjoy themselves. The second meeting took place at St. Helen's and took the form of dancing with instruction in some of the more unusual steps. It was a pleasant evening, and it may even be that some of us can remember what we were taught.

For the third meeting we attended a production of "King Lear" at the Playhouse, Oxford. A coach was provided to take us there, and the performance, although a little long, was very good.

The final meeting of the term was very quiet; we listened to gramophone records in Lacies Court. Although not very exciting, this provided relaxation after Sports Day, and brought the term's activities to a pleasant close.

M.S.R.B.

HOLIDAY CLUB

The Christmas holidays proved an eventful if not too successful vacation. At rugger we were defeated 3—10 by a strong Abingdon Town XV, whilst on the soccer field the club drew 3—3 with Abingdon Minors. The Social evening was again a success thanks largely to the efforts of Mr. Ingham, Mr. Willis, and Mr. Brampton who so generously allowed us the use of the hall at Caldecott House.

A varied programme of events has been prepared for the Easter holidays. We are especially glad to welcome those members of the School, both boarders and dayboys, who come from some distance to support us. I.R.P.

O.A. NOTES

BIRTHS

CALVERT-FISHER. On 18th February, 1957, to Heather, wife of Colin Calvert-Fisher (1944), a son, Robin.

MARRIAGES

BEDFORD-HORSMAN. On 25th March, 1958, at SS. Mary and John Church, Oxford, Donald G. Bedford (1942) to Joyce Horsman.

GIBBS-BENNETT. On 29th March, 1958, at Steventon Parish Church, Neville L. Gibbs (1949) to Jean M. Bennett.

LITTLE-BOYS. On 12th October, 1957, at Alvaston, Derby, Peter R. Little (1947) to Marion Boys.

VENABLES-WIGLEY. On 21st August, 1957, at Sutton Courtenay Church, Morris H. Venables (1950) to Juliet M. Wigley.

WIGGINS-CASTLE. On 8th March, 1958, at St. Helen's Church, Abingdon, Brian H. Wiggins (1950), son of the late H. C. Wiggins (1916), to Wendy Castle.

WIGGINS-PULLEY. On 12th April, 1958, at Shiplake Parish Church, Henley-on-Thames, Colin S. Wiggins (1953), son of S. F. Wiggins (1921), to Jennifer Pulley.

WILLIAMS-OWEN. On 10th April, 1958, at Holy Trinity Church, Aberystwyth, Mark N. Williams, M.A., to Enfys, daughter of Chancellor and Mrs. Gwilym Owen.

DEATHS

ALDWINCKLE. On 28th February, 1958, at Clinton, Ontario, Canada, Yeoman Henry Aldwinckle (1928—30), aged 39.

LAYNG. On 21st April, 1958, at Deen Hurst, St. Mark's, Cheltenham, Thomas Malcolm Layng, C.B.E., M.C., 1900—06, Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen, late Indian Army, aged 65 years.

NOWILL. On 24th January, 1958, at Preston Hall Hospital, Charles Maysmor Nowill (1907-10), of Aylesford, Kent, aged 64.

Henry Aldwinckle was one of a family long established at Shippon, three of his uncles having been at the School in the 90's. He and his brother Robert (1929-31) left when they were still quite young on the departure of the family to Canada, where he had been farming ever since.

Charles Nowill was a boarder in Tesdale House. He served in the 1914-18 War in the Durham L.I. and was wounded. After the war he entered the Consular Service and spent many years in Greece and the Middle East, before he returned, somewhat broken in health, in 1950.

T. M. Layng, nephew of the then Headmaster, left the School in 1906 to complete his education at Clifton. After coming down from Balliol he joined the Indian Army and fought with it in the First World War, in which he won his first M.C. Later he abandoned the prospect of a distinguished military career in order to be ordained. The Second World War found him Chaplain and fellow of his old college in Oxford. He very soon rejoined the Army—this time in the R.A.Ch.D.—and he was awarded a bar to the M.C. for his services during the evacuation of Dunkirk. He ended the war as Deputy Chaplain General of the Central Mediterranean Forces. On demobilisation he became Archdeacon of York in 1946, and as such he had the distinction, unusual for a priest, of being appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the East Riding. Shortly afterwards, however, his health failed and he was compelled to take up less strenuous work in Gloucestershire. His final appointment was to the parish of Kemble from which he retired in 1955.

He always maintained a keen interest in his first school, with which he had such close family connections: and many Old Boys will remember his last official visit to the School when he gave the address and dedicated the War Memorial Tablet at the special service held in the School Chapel on 26th June, 1949.

* * * *

Some time ago we mentioned the view expressed by two O.A.'s in different hemispheres, that young men today did not seem to appreciate or grasp the opportunities awaiting them in some of the rapidly developing parts of the world, particularly in Africa. A perusal of the brief notes that follow may not provide an answer but shows that Abingdon still maintains the export of enterprising youngsters.

The financial column of *The Times* on 25th March gave considerable prominence to the observations of Gordon Bayley, F.I.A. (1938), when addressing the Institute of Actuaries on the subject of National Pensions Schemes.

David Wheaton (1948) Tutor in Classics at Oak Hill College, Southgate, has written several articles for a Dictionary of Theology, to be published in U.S.A. shortly.

Colin Wiggins (1953), whom we congratulate on his recent marriage, has also appeared in print as a joint author of an article in *Nature* on Electroluminescence in Gallium Phosphide. He has secured his M.Sc. at Birmingham and is now reading for Ph.D. He is also quite busy demonstrating in physics at the College of Technology.

Gordon Brown (1947), after a 15 months' course at the Australian School of Pacific Administration in Sydney, passed his Finals in five subjects, and has now returned to New Guinea for a further tour of duty as Patrol Officer at Kerema.

Colin Leigh (1941), who was Captain of Mombasa C.C. last season, kept wicket for the Coast XI against the M.C.C. Touring Team. We look forward to seeing him perform again in the O.A. match in June.

Dudley Richardson (1942) is also expected here on leave from Trinidad this summer—with his four daughters.

Peter King (1945) was home from Kenya before Christmas and Campbell Stott (1946) from Sierra Leone. We felicitate the latter on his engagement.

Michael Grant (1953) has joined the N. Rhodesia Police and is stationed at Lusaka, where he is probably in contact with David Brown (1935). Our two N. Rhodesian Cadets, John Robins at Kalomo and John Spinks at Gwembe, Zambesi Valley, seem to have made a good start and find the work varied and interesting.

Martin Leftwich (1942), late Capt., 3rd Carabiniers, has left the Army and taken a post with the United Africa Company. He sailed recently for Sapele, N. Nigeria.

John Clarke (1941) in British Petroleum Co. has moved from Iran to Senegal.

Peter Little (1947) whose marriage we record, has been for six years in the drawing-office of Rolls-Royce at Derby. He now has a section of his own.

F. C. Lucas (1949), who has been assistant to W. J. Cox at Fulwell Park G.C. for some years, has been appointed professional at West Wilts G.C., Warminster.

Laurie Taylor (1943), who has been for some years with May & Baker, on the agricultural side, has been promoted to Head Office, to impart the principles of salesmanship.

His brother Aubrey (1951) is now a Motor Claims Assessor with the Northern Group of Insurance Companies.

To both we offer our sympathy in the recent death of their father. He was managing director of John Compton, who built our organ, and in many ways shewed himself a very good friend of the School.

Kenneth Walker (1942) is now married and has a hospital appointment at Workington, Cumberland.

A. M. Smith (1955) and J. S. Williamson (1952) have passed the Intermediate Exam. of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and John Dunkley (1948) Part A Finals of Institute of Municipal Treasurers. He has been in the City Treasurer's office at Oxford for 10 years, apart from his two years National Service in R.A.P.C.

Neil Purnell (1951) is with Tube Investments Ltd., Birmingham, Michael Glassbrook (1951) with Associated Deliveries Ltd., which handles Food Manufacturers' Delivery, and John Hines (1954) a trainee with John Dickinson, the paper-makers.

Charles Crow (1957) is with William Baker, Oxford and P. J. Penney (1956) the Bon Marchè, Gloucester, both members of the Debenhams Group.

Raymond Worth (1957), in Ministry of Local Government, works in an audit team, inspecting the accounts of several London boroughs.

David Carter (1954), farming in New Zealand, was married recently. His younger brother Robert (1956), now in the Sixth Form at Lindisfarne School, Hawkes Bay, is aiming at University, either at Auckland or in England. Frank Bartlett (1952), also farming in N.Z., is at Te Awamatu.

Peter Amey (1953) who has been articled to a London firm of accountants is leaving for Melbourne, Australia, where he will continue his articles.

John Young, who was at the School 1948-50, is now in residence at St. Edmund's Hall.

John Hall (1955), at Southampton University, has been selected to act as Page to the Chancellor at the Graduation Ceremony in the summer.

Tony Maxwell (1955) has taken a post with the Bank of West Africa.

Barry Cork (1957) is at the School of Navigation, Warsash, bound for the Merchant Navy.

Robert Pratt (1957), who left us last term when his father was posted to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, is at Melbourne C. of E. Grammar School.

SERVICES NEWS

Our two representatives at Britannia R.N.C. Dartmouth are Midshipman Peter Simmonds (1955) in his Sixth Term and Cadet Christopher Cobley (1957).

We were sorry to hear that Col. Guy Livingston, R.A. (1935) had been rushed to hospital for an appendicectomy, and trust he is making a good recovery.

Recently commissioned in R. Berks, at the final Passing Out at Eaton Hall, were George Nichol (1957) who is bound for Dar-es-Salaam, and Neville Grant (1957) posted to Ghana Regt. David Emmett (1956) has been posted to Cyprus.

David Dunkley (1956), now a qualified Interpreter in Intelligence Corps, is attached to Suffolk Regt. in Cyprus.

Frank Jeal (1956), in H.M.S. Maidstone, has certainly 'seen the western hemisphere' during his National Service, and his latest cruise has taken him to Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados.

John Budgen (1954), R.E.M.E., has been in Libya, attached to 6 R.T.R., but is due for release soon.

Barry Westbrook (1957) is at Munster with 1 R.H.A., Tony Riggott's regiment, and hopes to get a place in the Cricket XI.

BIRMINGHAM LETTER

Dear Sir,

This letter may be creating a precedent, but at a time when the provincial universities are attracting an increasing number of Abingdonians it is only proper that their activities—or some of them—should receive publicity which may help to swell the numbers at Birmingham.

Our senior member is Colin Wiggins, who having finished with Oxford travelled north to the 'Campus on the Hill', and is to be found in a prefabricated hut, already condemned, endeavouring to research into Higher Physics amid the noise of giant cranes and concrete-mixers. His non-academic interests are obscure, but he has been seen at dances with his fiancée, and we all offer our best wishes to them both.

Lower down the scale are the three freshmen, Brian Stacey, Christopher Marchbanks and Peter Exon. Brian, who chose Commerce as his subject because it appeared to demand not too much work, is often seen in a corner of the Union playing bridge with one hand while the other holds a cup of coffee or glass of ale, depending upon the time of day.

Mention of ale brings us to the Applied Biochemist, Christopher Marchbanks who has a side—or rather main—interest in brewing.

Despite his arduous laboratory schedule of investigations into edible fungi and chemical reactions he still seems to find time to have a morning cup of coffee at the Spanish coffee-house in the city.

Up the road from the University are the fine buildings of the Medical School. Peter Exon, the medico among us, is rarely seen there. He is continually changing his digs, perhaps because his landladies object to his habit of dancing round his room, screaming Scottish war-cries and jumping over swords, in preparation for a Folk-dance Society's display.

As for sporting interests, one of the joys of all freshmen is the compulsory physical education. Exon and Marchbanks chose golf and are to be seen slicing their drives between the posts of a nearby rugby pitch. Stacey picked the more intimate atmosphere of ballroom dancing. The more orthodox sports do not seem to be our strong line, but both Marchbanks and Stacey played in the Freshmen's hockey trial, with the result that Stacey functioned once or twice as goalkeeper in the 3rd XI.

Such is the news, and May approaches with its 'unmentionables', so

I beg to remain, Sir,

YOUR BIRMINGHAM CORRESPONDENT.

O.A. CLUB NOTES

The 10th London Dinner was held on Friday, 14th March, 1958 at the Constitutional Club, Northumberland Avenue, and once again we have to thank Stanley Paige very sincerely for the enormous amount of trouble he takes to arrange these enjoyable functions.

The President, J. O. Bury, was in the Chair, supported by the Headmaster, many past-presidents and members of the Staff, past and present, and altogether some 65 members attended. A feature was the large number of very young Old Boys, whom we were very pleased to see spending their pocket-money in such a commendable way.

After the Loyal Toast, the President proposed the toast of the School, to which the Headmaster replied with a comparatively brief survey of recent events and developments. Mr. Sewry proposed the toast of the Club, and as this year will mark the change of Housemasters at Waste Court, the speeches ended appropriately with a few welcome words from Mr. Alston.

We ask Old Boys to note the following dates now, although formal notices will be sent out later:

Old Boys' Day, Cricket and Tennis Matches and Annual Dinner:
Saturday, 14th June.

Rugger Match and Dance: Saturday, 29th November.

IMPRESSIONS OF SICILY

(10th—24th April, 1958)

(We are very grateful to Mr. Griffin who produced these impressions for us immediately on his return and just in time to catch the last proofs).

Initially there was a slight feeling of disappointment, but we had been travelling for two days, with little sleep, and instead of the golden sunshine, we had been looking forward to, grey skies and low cloud hid the mountains, and deprived us of the hoped-for view of Etna. So it is not surprising if Giardini seemed dirtier than it really was, the people somewhat hostile, when in reality they were very friendly, the service at lunch at the hotel exceptionally slow. The latter impression, however, is still with us.

Within a few days most of these impressions had been altered. Although we always created a stir when we moved through the village as a party, the people soon accepted us, and we were able to discover its fascination. The people, dark-skinned, dark-eyed, small and tending to stoutness are mostly poor. They live in small houses, the street door opening straight into the living room shared by the family, the livestock and the Vespa. A walk through the village even as early as six o'clock on a Sunday morning reveals the variety of crafts they practise—potters, carpenters, blacksmiths as well as fishermen, are all busily at work. Hawkers cry their wares in the streets, displaying them in donkey carts, panniers slung from donkeys (or scooters) and in curious and apparently very unstable frameworks erected around bicycles. The women sit at the doorways embroidering.

On the second day, in misty sunshine, we all went up the wonderful road which leads up the almost sheer slopes to Taormina. There we found a very different but no less fascinating place—a town built on many levels, with narrow streets, the balconies of the houses gay with flowers. We saw the Greco-Roman theatre, and the Cathedral, remarkable for its ancient Greek columns with very unusual capitals, but the views had to wait for later visits. On a clear day they are magnificent, especially the view of Etna, its vast bulk rising gradually out of the sea to a height of nearly eleven thousand feet.

The two cities we visited contrasted greatly with each other. Catania, many times destroyed by earthquake or eruption, presents an almost entirely eighteenth century appearance. Its little Greek theatre, and the Roman theatre and amphitheatre were built out of the materials of the city's destruction, and the words 'Tutto lava' became quite a catch phrase. Even on a sunny afternoon, however, there was an atmosphere of brooding uneasiness over the city.

In direct contrast was Syracuse; a happy city if ever there was one, built of golden stone, and radiant in the sunshine. Our stay was all too

short, but the thrill of standing at the top of the Greek theatre, overlooking the 'Great Harbour' where was fought the battle so superbly described by Thucydides, was an unforgettable experience. Among many other impressions, perhaps the most remarkable was the Cathedral, built into the Greek temple of Athene, and in continuous use since that temple was originally built.

Syracuse is sufficiently far from Etna to be unaffected by it, but when one lives close to the mountain, it dominates one's life. It is beautiful and awe-inspiring; it could easily be terrifying. Those of us who went up the extraordinary road which leads to some extinct craters six thousand feet up, were impressed by a strange unearthly landscape, alternating between utter desolation, where the lava flow had cooled into fantastic, tortured shapes, and vigorous cultivation of vine and olive; above us snow and rock with wisps of smoke coming round a nearby peak, reminding us that this thing was alive. At night the glow of its flames reflected in this smoke, or the red streak in the sky, which is molten lava flowing down the volcano, was an awe-inspiring sight.

For the rest, we swam from the beaches, though the Sicilian definition of sand would make a Cornishman shudder, we sunbathed; some of us walked up a mountain path to the small village of Castel Mola, perched on top of a hill above Taormina. Some, more enterprising climbed the highest mountain in the neighbourhood, about three thousand feet, and returned tired but triumphant. We talked to the people, in all kinds of languages and signs, and when the time came to return, we all wanted to stay; indeed, had the train, in true Sicilian fashion, not been late, we might have stayed, but that's another story.

"The Abingdonian"

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