

M. H. ROBERTS VS

THE VISOR



BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE
SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

EASTER, 1938.

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39 The Village, Bebington.

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1ST XV., 1937-1938.



L. BLACK, G. R. BELL, J. F. PEARSON, W. J. MASON, A. D. KENNEDY, J. N. GULLAN, W. D. MILNE,
J. R. SARGINSON, I. ROBERTS, C. E. GRIFFITHS, G. R. EDWARDS (Capt.), W. A. TRESIDDER, J. EDELSTEN, L. S. FALLOWS,
A. R. M. WEIR, L. F. CLARKE, E. A. BEER



School Calendar

TERM ENDS	March 31st.
SUMMER TERM BEGINS	April 26th.
SCHOOL SPORTS	May 28th.
HALF-TERM	June 4th—June 7th.
SUMMER TERM ENDS	July 27th.
AUTUMN TERM BEGINS	September 14th.

Editorial

SINCE the *Visor* appeared last, several changes have taken place among the Editorial staff; the result of which has been to give much work to those who are left. To add to the difficulties with which the survivors were confronted, an unusually early date for Speech Day caused the exams to fall in the week set aside for magazine production. Consequently, work has been in arrears, and everything done hurriedly. However, in spite of rush and delay, the *Visor* appears at last, and the Editor trusts that it will not be found inferior in any respect to the standard of earlier numbers.

Salvete

IIIa.

WESTMINSTER :—Hughes, T. R.

IIIb.

STITT :—Posnett, J.

LOWER PREP.

ATKIN :—Stalker, P. B. TATE :—East, M. WESTMINSTER :—
Horsley, P.

Valete

UPPER VIIb.

ATKIN :—
Beck, J., S.C. 1937.

STITT :—

McLeod, A. G., S.C. 1937.

Ridout, G. P., Prefect, S.C. 1937, 1st XV. 1937, On Committee of Literary and Debating Society.

TATE :—

Leyland, R., S.C. 1937.

Taylor, A. J., *Prefect, Captain of House, Matric. 1937, Cross-Country Winner 1936, 1st XV. Colours.*

WESTMINSTER :—

Jones, E. G., *Matric. 1937.*Moore, S., S.C. 1937, *Member of Chess Team.*

Thornton, J. A., S.C. 1937.

VIs.

STITT :—

Hanman, C. T., S.C. 1937, *1st XV. 1937.*Porter, L. J., *1st XV. 1937.*

Vib.

ATKIN :—

Wilson, G., Woodhouse, W. H.

STITT :—

Wevill, B. E.

Speech Day

SPEECH Day ceremony this year was held in the Town Hall on Friday, March 4th, when the principal speaker was Mr. T. Bertram Reece, the Recorder of Birkenhead, who also distributed the prizes. In a refreshingly short address he said that the School had a record of which it might well be proud, and stressed the need for team-spirit. Though competition now was keener than ever, it would probably be found that many men in good positions were not at the top of their form in school, and for this reason boys who were not at the top should not be discouraged.

Mr. Solly, Chairman of the Governors, presided, and the Headmaster read his report on the last School year. In this he pointed out that the new homework regulations gave a boy more leisure, and he wondered whether this would be spent profitably. He therefore urged parents to take a great interest in their boys, and to see that leisure time was not wasted.

ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES.

Boys neither late nor absent for two years—B. S. Halliday, W. A. Tresidder, K. Bell, W. Miller, L. D. M. Sparrow, L. S. Coathup, O. Darlington F. G. Hughes, R. Brunning, J. W. Bryden, E. N. Edge, I. Morris, M. H. Roberts.

Three Years—R. S. Robinson, I. D. Harris, W. D. Milne, E. Williams.

Four Years—M. D. Forshaw.

Five Years—G. R. Bell, P. Bragger, E. E. Hutchinson, A. J. Taylor, A. C. Williams, W. S. Williams.

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES.

Civil Service Examination—J. Edelsten, A. R. Pierce.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS.

University of Liverpool—Derby Scholarship in Architecture (£35 a year for three years): I. S. Melville.; **University Studentship in Architecture (£25 a year for five years)**: I. S. Melville.

INTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

Henry Tate £10—G. R. Edwards, G. A. Forsythe, I. Roberts, J. R. Sarginson.

Duke of Westminster £5—J. Edelsten, H. R. Bawden, R. D. Roberts, R. S. Robinson.

Atkin £5—A. G. McLeod, T. Moyes.

PRIZE LIST.

Form IIIj—1, P. E. Parton; 2, L. T. Malcolm; 3, R. G. Harris.

Form IIIb—1, K. M. Brecknell; 2, K. Gaskell; 3, S. J. Amass.

Form IIIa—1, D. W. Bibby; 2, W. J. Barr; 3, H. G. Baxter.

Form IVj—1, G. E. Foxcroft; 2, J. W. Bryden; 3, G. A. Thomas and A. B. Hayward.

Form IVb—1, P. O. Rogers; 2, J. Williams; 3, O. Darlington.

Form IVa—1, H. G. Proudman; 2, W. E. Liversage; 3, A. E. H. Sargent and J. G. Beckett.

Form Vj—1, T. H. Fisher; 2, L. Tarpey.

Form V Lr—1, W. F. Wolstenholme; 2, R. H. Howell; 3, G. G. Badcock and A. J. Hales.

Form Rem. Lr—1, W. J. D. Powell; 2, P. Kavanagh.

Form Rem. A—1, C. N. Thompson; 2, H. C. Grice; 3, J. F. Pearson.

Form Rem. J—1, K. Bell; 2, C. W. Cooper; 3, E. Williams.

Form IVb—1, B. S. Halliday; 2, E. G. Franka.

Form VIa—1, W. S. Williams; 2, M. T. L. Jones; 3, W. K. Hamilton.

Form VIc—1, P. P. Simpson; 2, R. S. Robinson; 3, J. Edelsten.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

English: G. R. Edwards. **Chemistry**: J. Edelsten. **Drawing: Senior**—I. S. Melville; **Junior**—T. H. Ashworth. **History**: G. R. Edwards. **Geography**: I. S. Melville. **Solly History Prize**: J. Gallagher. **Headmaster's Prize**: I. S. Melville. **The George Holt Prizes: Physics**—W. E. Clare; **Chemistry**—W. E. Clare; **Mathematics**—J. R. Sarginson. **Connacher Memorial Prize for English**: J. Gallagher. **Old Boys' Prizes**: G. R. Bell, R. L. M. Hill, A. R. Pierce, A. J. Taylor, K. I. C. Vincent, A. R. M. Weir.

Medals for Drill and Gymnastics (Champion Four)—T. G. Astley, W. E. Clare, J. Edelsten, P. H. Jones.

Free Exercise Medal (presented by Mr. Clague)—R. C. Lowson.

Colour Caps—Cricket: R. H. Ceha, R. L. M. Hill, P. H. Jones, C. R. Lawless, J. F. Pearson, A. C. Williams; **Football**—L. Black, J. Edelsten, J. Edelsten, Junr., G. R. Edwards, J. Gullan, W. D. Milne, J. R. Sarginson, A. C. Williams.

Silver Cup for Games—Senior: R. L. M. Hill; **Junior**: E. A. Beer.

Cross Country Run—Senior: R. A. G. King; **Junior**: L. F. Clarke.

Victor Ludorum—Senior: R. L. M. Hill; **Junior**: S. B. Huntriss.

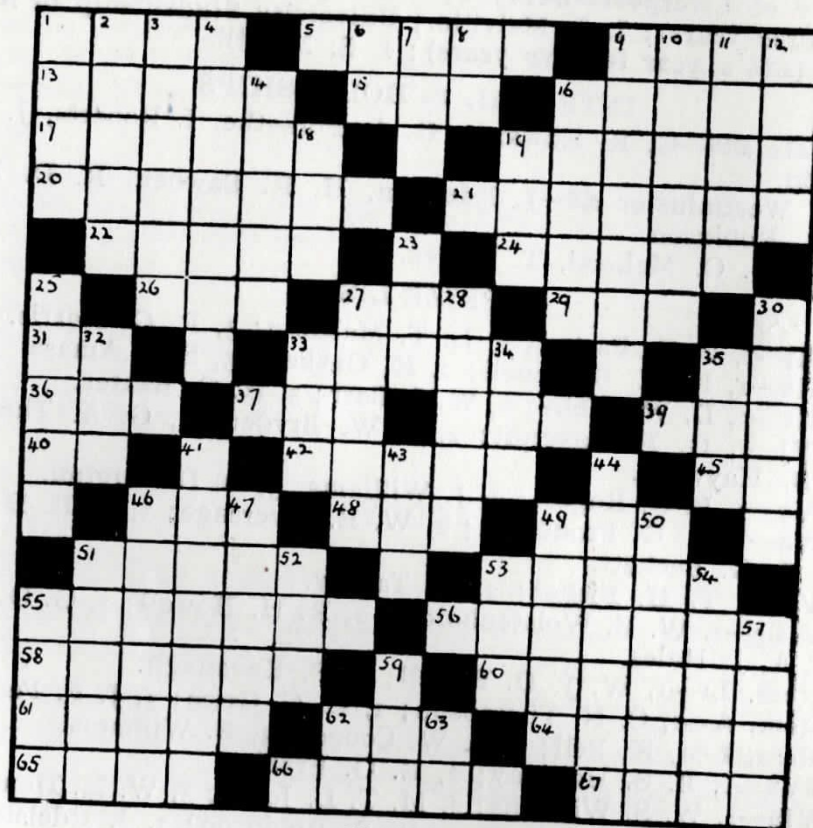
Swimming Championship—W. E. Clare.

Chess Championship—J. R. Sarginson.

House Trophies—Athletics: Tate **Swimming**: Stitt; **Football**: Westminster; **Cricket**: Stitt; **Coronation Cup (Champion House)**: Tate.

Crossword No. 16

A prize will be awarded for the first correct solution handed to Mr. Hall.



CLUES.

ACROSS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1.—Fury. | 38.—Performed. |
| 5.—Unreasoning. | 39.—Lubricate. |
| 9.—Tropical tree. | 40.—Preposition. |
| 13.—Ward off. | 42.—Ruler of Abyssinia. |
| 15.—Abolish. | 45.—See 35. |
| 16.—Book of the Bible. | 46.—Remember (abbreviation). |
| 17.—Agriculturist. | 48.—Diocese. |
| 19.—Firmer. | 49.—Confidential (with last 3 reversed of 19 across). |
| 20.—Synchronisations. | 51.—Uninjured. |
| 21.—Affairs. | 53.—Celestial bodies. |
| 22.—Estates. | 55.—Strips. |
| 24.—Slits. | 56.—Recount. |
| 26 (rev).—Despatched (with 1st letter of 25 down). | 58.—Obliterated. |
| 27.—Part of stocking. | 60.—Employer. |
| 29.—Royal Geographical Society. | 61.—Trigonometrical ratios. |
| 31 & 40.—God of northern mythology. | 62.—Metal. |
| 33.—Concede. | 63.—Strips for game. |
| 35 & 45.—Destiny. | 65 (reversed).—Submerged. |
| 36.—Not worn. | 66.—Large inn. |
| 37.—Colour. | 67.—Endure (archaic). |

DOWN.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1.—Substitute for boat. | 32.—Study. |
| 2.—Help. | 33.—Weapon. |
| 3.—European language. | 34 (rev.)—You do for your portrait. |
| 4.—Animals of weasel tribe. | 35.—Well adapted. |
| 6 & 8.—Dry. | 41.—Declines. |
| 7.—Receptacle for corn. | 43.—Precious stone. |
| 9.—Amount charged for carriage of a letter. | 44.—Carried to the grave. |
| 10.—Flowers. | 46.—Spain is the land of this. |
| 11.—Glances sideways. | 47.—Ancient eastern race. |
| 12.—Planet. | 49.—Strip of leather. |
| 14.—Is inclined. | 50.—Mouth of volcano. |
| 16.—One who dislikes. | 51.—Canary-like finch. |
| 18.—Royal Geographical Society. | 52.—Revolutionary. |
| 19.—Fed up for slaughter. | 53.—Christian name. |
| 23.—Non-poisonous set. | 54.—Upright slab. |
| 25.—Bracing. | 55.—Sloping table for the use of writers. |
| 27.—Perennial plants. | 57.—Highland Gaelic. |
| 28.—Put on. | 59.—Hole in ground. |
| 30.—Principality. | 62 & 63.—Sound. |

Crossword No. 15

PRIZE awarded to C. N. Thompson, Via.

SOLUTION.

ACROSS.

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Boys. | 22. Shiel. | 38. Oat. | 56. Desirer. |
| 5. Clive. | 24. Weser. | 39. Tug. | 58. Ensues. |
| 9. Mars. | 26. Str. | 40. Ie. | 60. Finite. |
| 13. Roots. | 27. Ink. | 42. Spawn. | 61. Likes. |
| 15. One. | 29. RCS. | 46. FRC. | 62. Rod. |
| 16. Robin. | 31. At. | 48. Ten. | 64. Nudes. |
| 17. Azures. | 33. Anent. | 49. Bed. | 65. Less. |
| 19. Derive. | 35 & 45. Bale. | 51. Groom. | 66. Foyer. |
| 20. Get away. | 36. Vow. | 53. Rated. | 67 (rev.). Tree. |
| 21. Infidel. | 37. Use. | 55. Deigned. | |

DOWN.

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Brag. | 14. Sewer. | 33. Ass. | 51. Genie. |
| 2. Oozes. | 16. Refer. | 34. Tan. | 52. Mes. |
| 3. Youths. | 18. Sal. | 53. Bul. | 53. Ref. |
| 4. Straits. | 19 (rev.). W(i)nd. | 41. Brogues. | 54. Deter. |
| 6 & 8.—Love. | 23. One. | 43 (rev.). Tea. | 55. Dell. |
| 7. ing. | 25. David. | 44. Retinue. | 57. Rest. |
| 9. Morisco. | 27. Inept. | 46. Frisks. | 59. Boy. |
| 10. Abides. | 28. Known. | 47. Cones. | 62 and 63. Rode. |
| 11. River. | 30. Wager. | 49. Basin. | |
| 12 (rev.). Lens. | 32. Toe. | 50. Deride. | |

Others as We See Them

WHEN Third Formers are invited to give their opinions about the School magazine, to say which features they enjoy most and would like more of, and which they never read but vote boring and profitless, a strong favourite in the latter class is the editorial. They plump solidly for its omission; and many editors, faced with the task of writing one, would heartily agree.

Designers of these literary frontispieces have to work within cramping limits. They must be dignified, yet avoid dullness; they may be witty but not flippant; they may criticize, but not carp; they may appeal, but should never preach. They are conscious that their words may be read by headmasters, governors, parents *et hoc genus omne*, if not by the Third Form; so school politics must be mentioned little and warily, crying scandals and deep grievances not at all.

How, one wonders, would the editor of a daily paper fill his leader column if hampered by restrictions like these? Yet where the professional journalist would hesitate to tread, the amateur in the Sixth rushes in and *sometimes* brings it off. But not always; and the cause of failure is usually vaulting ambition, the kind that o'erleaps ability, and comes a cropper.

* * * * *

Take the case of one who in "lighter vein," as he says, referring to the cover of his magazine, writes

We cannot yet foresee (*sic*) what delicate shades will appear next May, but they will flavour of the rejoicings of the School's coming of age. . . .

Hard up for a topic, he falls back on the weather, "an intriguing subject," and speaks slightly of "a few anaemic snowflakes." Is this fair? Is not anaemia a virtue in snowflakes? And is it not written how

On Linden, when the sun was low,
All bloodless lay the untrodden snow?

There is a reference to those who "hide their talents under bushels," surely an insecure place of concealment, leaving, moreover, only the inadequate napkin for those who wish to hide their light.

Then comes this remarkable statement:

. . . . for the first time the Editorial is free from quotations, innuendoes or other remarks in any language. . . .

Perhaps, but not from *misquotations*.

Sometimes gems of purest wisdom are found. The editor of Liverpool Institute Magazine has one:

The Magazine is what we choose to make it. It can be a mere catalogue of School events. It need not be. If every secretary and every captain determined to consider even more seriously his few words, if they wrote what they wanted to say with brevity and simplicity, if they reduced to the minimum unavoidable lists and records.

Better than rubies, and he has acted on his own advice: the House Notes (four houses) occupy only three-quarters of a page. One is brief and pithy enough to quote as a dazzling example of the perfect house note:

OWEN.—The House has been judged mainly on football this term and has been found wanting. Please remember seven men against eleven can't expect to win.

* * * * *

Pharos (Wirral County School, Dec. 1937) prints some lines of Catullus and 'R. Horace' (We think this is meant to stand for our old friend Q. H. Flaccus: the lines are his, anyway) followed by attempts at verse translation by members of the Lower Fifth, one of which achieves a very creditable result, and the other is equally courageous, if less successful. The editors are to be congratulated.

* * * * *

The Holt School Magazine (Dec. 1937) is a great improvement on previous numbers. Possibly this is due to the inspiration derived from the new building; several original contributions reach a high standard of excellence, and the general level is high. The only flaw noticed was the uncorrected account of the doings of the *Cercle francais*, with its story of "les sons der française et la langue Française telle que la partent les Français." The debating society has discussed the motion "That the new School is on the whole a disappointment." The motion was lost.

* * * * *

Mathematicians will appreciate the sonnet after Keats in the *Caldeian* (Dec. 1937), *On First Looking into Bowman's Calculus*. The writer outlines his previous excursions into mathematics, and continues

Oft of that awe-inspiring stretch, from naught
To far infinity, that crazy dream,
Have I been told; yet never caught a gleam
Till Bowman to my aid his knowledge brought.

Then felt I like some toiler of the seas,
 When frightful monsters surge out of the blue;
 Or like poor Paddy, when with shaking knees
 He stares in wonder at the sable hue
 Of twisting coils of fog, and wild banshees,
 Dumbstruck upon a bog in Ballyhoo.

* * * * *

The *Quarry* has two short stories, one of which is very competently told. A good short story is a most useful and infrequent contribution to a school magazine. The art is not for everyone to learn. Nor can we all write epigrams in verse, a point to be remembered by the amateur who quotes W. N. Ewer's

How odd
 Of God
 To choose
 The Jews

and tries to parry this very tricky thrust in verses similar in length but not otherwise.

* * * * *

ODDMENTS.

Land Wet For Heroes.

... an advantage we will never have in England—a climate upon which one can depend. (Applause).

Hearts of oak are our men.
 Further outlook unsteady!

Singular Merit.

Mr. X, ably assisted by Mr. Y and Mr. Z deserve our warmest thanks.

Granted, to one and all.

* * * * *

The *Visor* Committee gratefully acknowledges receipt of the magazines mentioned above, of those of Alsop High School, Wirral Grammar School, and Teignmouth Grammar School, and of *The Lion* (Rock Ferry), *Oulton*, *Esmeduna*, and *The Wallaseyan*.

University Letters

TRINITY COLLEGE,
 CAMBRIDGE.

Sir,

In the writing of university letters there are great technical difficulties: they are similar (it may be suggested, with great respect) to editorials—one somehow feels that they begin in the

middle and go on long after they have finished. And your own article, Sir, does at least hold the field alone, whereas your contributors face competition. This is very hard on your Cambridge correspondent, since he lacks the superb prophetic gifts of writers from Oxford, and does not move in those exotic circles so vividly described by Mr. Melville. In such company he feels unsophisticated and rather ashamed that the sober facts he records are so very sober.

Last term was distinguished by its fogs and snow, but Mr. Alldis was confident that there were depths below depths, and prophesied tornadoes. *Also sprach Zarathustra*. Out came the sun and never looked back, and Cambridge has blossomed out as only it can. The river banks have been (shall we say,) adorned by nymphs and shepherds, and the worldly students have joined the gallant and the fair, while the pedantic trudge to the library. Hence we divide automatically into the sheep and the goats—which are which is a delicate moral question which you, Sir, may decide for yourself.

What is the university thinking about? Chiefly, perhaps, politics, which are of the comic opera variety, some politicians having opinions as loud as their shirts. Most people are probably left wingers, but besides stern Bolsheviks there are muscular Christians, constructive pacifists, and, *pour encourager les autres*, one or two Fascists. This is the ideal stamping ground for distinguished speakers, among whom the present writer may mention Mr. E. M. Forster who impressed, and Professor J. B. S. Haldane who amused him.

Concerning Old Boys. We have been bereaved of Mr. Walker, whose great gifts are now edifying Calday, but can still glory in Mr. Alldis who has climbed into the college XV. and sunk into philosophical conservatism; and in Mr. Jenkins, whose researches remain intolerably learned and industrious. As for your humble servant, he shines but dimly among such luminaries: he continues strangely prejudiced against organised games, and his political views remain delicately pink.

All we Old Boys were delighted to have the company, at our annual dinner, of the Head Master, re-visiting old haunts.

About Cambridge as a whole, it might be well to shatter a few illusions. To call it school without the detentions would be unkind and untrue; nor is it merely the home of student princes and boat races. It swells a schoolboy into a scholar and deflates

a prefect to a third-former (a great relapse, no doubt). And it makes the unpractical (in one case, anyhow) wish they were better cooks. All three very useful functions: what more could one want?

Yours sincerely,

JOHN GALLAGHER.

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE,

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

Dear Sir,

This morning I received a request for a letter. Sir, I am honoured, knowing as I do, though perhaps you don't, that there are between thirty and forty other students of this University equally well qualified. This is a terrific distinction—I wilt visibly beneath it. A space for recovery is indicated.

Now, sir, having scraped off the introductory gravy, we arrive at the meat—rather frivolous meat, I'm afraid. This is, of course, Springtime, the season of Love and dancing lambkins, therefore nothing intellectual can be reasonably expected. Panto is not long past, as you will doubtless know. That will stand as yet another excuse. On behalf of the University, I think I should be justified in saying we enjoyed Panto, especially those Architects who dressed up in togas and little else and travelled around Liverpool on a mobile Greek temple, complete with imitation grass and gold-leaved ivy supplied gratis by the town's multiple stores—on the whole a "classic" show.

The next event—from the School's point of view the greatest—was the B.I. Reunion, copying the Caminstonians. Actually, I hardly know what we should be called; certainly Liverinstonians sounds a trifle anatomical; on the other hand Poolinstonians has too plebian a flavour. Puddle-biobians, again, reminds one of Edward Lear and his little verse—

" For as Aunt Jobiska said

Everyone knows that a Pobble is better without his toes." You say this is the sheerest nonsense; you are right, sir,—let us have done with this foolish fantasy. The fact remains that while we discussed poached eggs on toast (a very mundane dish), we decided that we should henceforth exist as a society to further the interests of and co-operate with the Old School. We all felt that this was a Good Thing and welcomed the Headmaster's presence at the Reunion and the good advice he was able to give us.

Almost on top of this came the Northern Architectural Students' Association Congress. This produced (a) a great deal of work for the Liverpool School, (b) profuse demonstrations and exhibitions of skill in both oratory and draughtsmanship.

So far, Mr. Editor, I find I have made no mention of Life in General. This is always done in the best articles, whether they be learned treatises on social science or descriptions of visits to an aquarium. The occasion seems ripe for a bit of debunking.

It is no use claiming a romantic existence—our surroundings are too sordid for that. Neither smoke-blackened brick nor grim red terra-cotta are substances to bring the soul inspiration and imagination. The truth is that our life as a body is different from that of the rest of the world but still unquestionably respectable. The greater part of this talk of student wildness and riotous living is tosh and twaddle. True, we have our little bits of fun; admittedly a taxicab was set on fire last year and burnt out; admittedly the Vice-Chancellor arrived on a beer wagon; admittedly there are several curiously "modern" parties held each term; nevertheless we are not half so crazy as some try to make us appear.

The Union library is not the hive of anarchy and revolutionary ideas that it is supposed to be—fiction books are borrowed as much as non-fiction, and the gentleman in the canary-yellow pullover lying on the window-sill is much more likely to be reading *Life on the Farm* by Maria Onestitch than erudite tomes on Marxism. Again, observe that fiery young man with the black flowing locks, the editor of our weekly newspaper. In spite of the fact that he is wearing a really wicked green check, zipp-fastened lumber-jacket and pants to match, with thick woollen braces over his shoulders, he is probably busy in the very commonplace occupation of picking up trivial gossip rather than planning the downfall of ordered government, as the "Daily Express" would have Britain believe.

Such, sir, are some more impressions of life in the most primitive backwaters of Brownlow Hill. I wish you well and leave them to you.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

IAN S. MELVILLE.



OUR good wishes go with Mr. Wild, who left us at half-term to take up an appointment at the North Manchester High School. At the same time we extend a hearty welcome to his successor, Mr. Fox.

* * * * *

The 1st XV., after a poor start, have made a good recovery. Thirteen out of their last seventeen matches have been won.

* * * * *

Rugby colours have been awarded to Milne, Edwards, Edelsten, Sarginson, Bell (G. R.) and Gullan.

* * * * *

The groundsman is to be congratulated on the excellent condition of the playing pitches on the School field.

* * * * *

The school film-projector has been in use on alternate Fridays this term, when the films shown have been much appreciated by those wise (or wealthy) enough to patronise them. The film-show de luxe, however, was given at the Y.M.C.A. hall on Friday, February 11th, Mr. Hirst providing a full-length entertainment, which included a news-reel of the Sports, photographed in colour.

* * * * *

RECORDER'S RECORD.—A new record was set up on Speech Day by Mr. Bertram Reece in his address to the School. He completed the course in just over ten minutes, a feat that was loudly applauded. Unfortunately the time-keeper failed to note particulars of his performance in distributing the prizes, certificates, trophies, medals, and caps,—over 200 items in about a quarter of an hour.

* * * * *

A party of sixteen boys in charge of Messrs. Morris and J. H. Jones will visit Paris in the Easter holidays. We wish them all a jolly time.

The School Dramatic Society are presenting *Macbeth* at the Y.M.C.A. Hall on Monday and Tuesday, March 28th and 29th.

* * * * *

On the evening of March 16th, a party from the lower sixth forms visited the Birkenhead High School for a performance of *Richard II.* by the English Classical Players.

Some Notes on Early Tranmere

THE story of Birkenhead has proved an attractive theme to more than one writer, but no one has ever written a history of Tranmere, at one time easily the more important of the two townships. The notes here given make no pretence at being a serious study, but they are based on widely scattered and little-known published material, and on certain unpublished documents. It is hoped that they may encourage some reader of the *Visor* to undertake a similar enquiry for himself.

* * * * *

THE LIMITS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TRANMERE.

THE approximate boundary of the ancient civil parish or township of Tranmere is now represented by a line drawn from the outer basin of Cammell Lairds via the Gasworks and Central Station and along Borough Road up to the south corner of Briardale Road. From this point it runs to the bottom of Bennett's Hill (where stood a small hamlet known as "Watts' Heath"), and thence along Woodchurch Road (at one time called Slough Lane or Slush Lane) and Storeton Road, as far as the Southern Side of Mount Wood. Here it makes a sharp right angled turn before it curves irregularly to its termination just north of Rock Ferry. The ferry was originally in the township of Higher Bebington.

ITS PHYSIQUE.

From the physical point of view Tranmere consists essentially of a flattish sandstone ridge, over 100 feet in elevation, which is thrust northwards from the Storeton upland. The ridge is flanked to the east by a clay lowland, which faces a wide foreshore originally a mile in length. To the west and north it slopes down to a sweeping valley, formerly known as

the Happy Valley, which was drained by a small stream into Tranmere (or Birket) pool.

TRANMERE POOL.

Tranmere Pool was a tidal inlet which penetrated westwards to a point just north of the present Central Station, very high tides, it is stated, reaching the site of St. John's Church.

Though the Pool was easily fordable at low water, it must nevertheless have proved at other times no mean barrier to too-easy communication between Tranmere and Woodside. The records of the Liverpool Coroner's Court of 1659 tell us of something of its dangers by describing the death in the Pool of one "Robert Greene late Corporall of Major Boulton's Troope," who attempted its crossing on horseback. "Robert Greene was then and there by accident, misadventure and misfortune drowned and found lying there dead in the Bottom, being left by the Tyd's ebbing neere the place where hee entered ye Poole."

About 1790 a causeway was thrown across the creek to facilitate communication between Chester and Woodside. This does not appear, however, to have interfered with its use at a later date by local yachtsmen.

Prehistoric implements of flint have been found near the site of Tranmere Pool, and on the Tranmere side of Mount Wood, Storeton Road.

SOME REASONS FOR TRANMERE'S EARLY IMPORTANCE.

The following extracts from early census tables are of much interest:—

much interest :—		Tranmere.	Birkenhead and Claughton.
Population	1801	...	177
	1811	...	193
	1821	...	319
	1831	...	2793
	1851	...	24999
	1871	...	43434
Approximate area in acres		1057	1739

Up to the 1830's Tranmere was more populous than Birkenhead—Claughton, and had been so for centuries. The reasons for this are not difficult to seek. The main economic

interests of the early people of Wirral lay in the soil, and the soil of Tranmere, though not specially fertile, was richer than that of its northern neighbours, where (behind the Woodside peninsula), much of the land was usually in a semi-sodden condition.

Tranmere had other interests besides farming. It was of some importance as a quarrying centre, notably below the Holt Hill scarp, which could well supply the stone for such a building as Birkenhead Priory when the quarryman's technique was simple. Tranmere's fisheries are mentioned as early as the 13th Century. Part of its front was used, as the following advertisement from a Liverpool Newspaper of 1757 bears witness, for commercial storage purposes. "William Woods, at the Woodside House, hereby acquaints the public, that at his warehouse along the shore between the Rock Ferry and Berkit-pool, is sold wholesale and retail Norwich salt of all sorts at four shillings the bushell; Prescott mugware of all sorts and sizes; also Lime, Coals and Kennel in any quantities and at moderate prices. Constant attendance is given at the aforesaid warehouses; and goods will be carried down the river as usual by W. Woods."

In addition to these interests, Tranmere had possessed since the days of Queen Elizabeth at least its own ferry, leased in 1586 to John Poole of Sutton, who paid one shilling a year for the privileges enjoyed. The following from the columns of the Liverpool Mercury of 1818 is a reference to this ferry. "Tranmere. Genteel lodgings for the summer and bathing season at the New Hall situated as above. The prospect from this house is delightful, commanding a view of Liverpool, the River Mersey and the surrounding country and not more than 10 minutes walk from the ferry to which the Etna steam packet is constantly plying and affords a safe and expeditious passage across the river for horses, carriages, passengers, etc. The above house is capable of accommodating large or small parties being extensive—apply Mr. George French."

The Etna, a curious contrivance with two hulls surmounted by a square deck, with a paddle in the centre, had been launched the previous year, and as the first steamship ever to cross to Wirral, can be regarded in a sense as a creator of the residential communities on the west of the Mersey estuary. Its use of Tranmere Ferry, rather than that of Woodside, is significant.

The ferry lay to the south of the Pool, and prior to its closing, in 1897, possessed a slipway or pier about 500 yards in length.

The advertisement of the recreational facilities offered now seems strange, but the use of the beach, for Tranmere "Wakes" (which ultimately ceased to be "genteel"), continued well on into the middle of last century. The proceedings of Whit Monday 1857 have been vividly described by a contemporary writer. There were Eccles cakes, pop and periwinkles; blind beggars; ballad mongers chanting "Villikins and his Dinah"; whirlgigs and swinging boats, in which boys and girls took their rapid departure for Odessa, Inkerman or Balaclava; Jimmy Hanley's "Temple of Fancy," where the "Bull Ring Pet of Birmingham" and "Jackson of Toxteth Park" showed their prowess; there was also a mock destruction of Sebastopol and, in short, all the fun of the fair.

The 1818 advertisement is of further interest in inviting attention to the attractive views obtainable from the township, for nowhere on Merseyside, with the exception of a small area at the southern end of the Liverpool docks, does such high ground come so close to the river. The scene from the ridge first depicted in 1769 was frequently painted by artists sixty or eighty years ago. It is gratifying to know that (although the full possibilities of this commanding site are still unrealised) unique viewpoints, in Victoria Park and elsewhere, have been saved from the builder.

The census of 1841 states that out of the 2554 people then living in the township, 1359 were born out of Cheshire. New-comers (many of them, according to local tradition ships' captains) had flocked to Rock Ferry, to Holt Hill, and to Clifton Park, building themselves well-planned residences. Then the wave of immigration increased apace; housing standards slackened; a Local Board, with powers approximating to those of the present-day Urban District Council, was set up in 1860; the legal powers of the Board were insufficient to cope with its problems of development, so that Tranmere was finally absorbed into Birkenhead in 1877 when the latter was constituted a Borough. Its population was then 18517.

Despite its absorption and its subsequent rapid growth, there still lingers something of a Tranmere tradition. Its oldest inhabitants, who pronounce its name with a very short second syllable, still refer to it as "the town," and still call the

southern part of Church Road "the village." There are still fishermen in Tranmere as there were six centuries ago, and there is living still at least one resident (an old boy of the school) who like his grandfather farmed its acres.

SOME OLD TRANMERE NAMES.

The following names of former inhabitants occur frequently in documents prior to the 19th century:—

Bellin	Hodgson	Orred
Briscoe	Holme	Southeron
Dunne	Hooe	Tellet
Finlow	Kent	Walley
Gleave	Langford	Wilson
Hockenhull	Malpas	Yoxon

Some of these were landowners and leaders, and the rest doubtless very ordinary country folk; yet all played a part in transforming the heath of the ridge and the forests of the lower land into productive fields and so, indirectly, of shaping the course of those who came after them.

TRANMERE WOOD.

Before the 19th Century the traveller bound for Chester from Woodside would have found it most convenient to journey via Grange Lane (now Grange Road), in Birkenhead and (after crossing the stepping stones over the brook) up Whetstone Lane. Near Charing Cross, should he have looked up the Happy Valley, he would have seen no sign of human habitation save perhaps the remains of a monastic watermill near Victoria Road. To his left, and stretching between Whetstone Lane and the present Central Station, he would have seen a belt of woodland, later to be a happy hunting ground for the botanist. The first "Flora" of the Liverpool district, published in 1837, refers to it in these terms. "Tranmere Wood should be diligently examined in the early spring, as it abounds with most of the favourite flowers so welcome to the botanist after a long winter." There are, however, references to an earlier and much more extensive wood in Tranmere than this. In Medieval times Richard Starky of Trane-mole claimed the right of cutting down "the third part of the Wood of Tranemole, at his will to burn and to build; and all dead wood, and all wood not green, to sell or to give, at his Will, without view of the Foresters (of Wirral), or hindrance of anyone."

An alternative route might have been taken over a small footbridge further down stream, called Mallins Way Bridge, which is noted in 1689 under the proceedings of the Manorial Court of Claughton, when it was ordered to be repaired. This course to Holt Hill involved a stiff climb at the top of the present Rodney Street. The Whetstone Lane route was safe at all states of the tide and (as now) offered the advantage of a gentler gradient. We may well suppose that Whetstone Lane is of very great age.

HOLT HILL.

The Holt was originally a tangle of gorse, bracken and stunted trees, and its name, without doubt, originated from this fact, and not because, as is often seriously suggested, Oliver Cromwell "holted" his troops at this point. There was a little settlement here before the birth of the ubiquitous Protector, as the Parish Registers of Bebington testify clearly. Perhaps the most interesting reference to it occurs in the Churchwardens accounts of Prestbury Parish for the year 1679. They note that the sum of eight shillings had been contributed towards the ransom of Andrew Malpas, son of Robert Malpas and of Margery his wife of Holt Hill in the parish of Bebington, "who was taken by Turkish Pyrates belongin to Argier (? Algiers) being in a ship called the John of Dubline."

Evidently they were not all home-keeping youths reared in early Holt Hill.

HINDERTON LANE AND CHURCH LANE.

At Holt Hill the road forked and the traveller had the choice of either Hinderton Lane to his left or of Church Lane to his right. The former, named from the fishing and quarrying hamlet near Green Lane, was probably not used much until the opening of the southern portion of Old Chester Road (near Dacre Hill) about 1787. The latter was so called because it led to the parish church in Lower Bebington. In this church are several interesting memorials of early Tranmere and its folk. One bears record of the fact that "Richard Yockson of Tranmere in ye parish of Bebington, left to ye Poor of Tranmore one Hundred Pound, ye Interest to be distributed amongst ye poor of ye town every Easter day for ever. An 1728."

Tranmere did not become a separate ecclesiastical parish until 1830, when St. Catherine's Church was consecrated.

There were very few buildings along Church Road a century ago. At the northern end of Mill Street there stood Tranmere Mill, a conspicuous landmark from the river until it was taken down in 1857. Milling was an early occupation in the township. The upper part of Devonshire Park was known as "Top Mill Hill," while it is of interest to note that William the Milleward of Tranmore took over a lease of Bromborough Mill in 1398.

Farther along Church Road, at the northern corner of the present Institution, there stood a toll gate held by the same Trustees who owned the toll houses near Tranmere Ferry and the bottom of Well Lane. The construction of Mill Street opened up communication with Yolk of Egg Lane (now Derby Road) and by this means the traffic through the turnpike in Church Road was diverted. As a result the gate was demolished in 1846.

J.E.A.

(To be continued).

Music for School

THE English are a progressive and humane race. They have spared no pain to give their workers every home comfort. They have regulated hours, instituted healthy working conditions, and generally improved matters for the working masses. Only one thing more was needed to make the worker's lot an absolutely happy one—incidental music. And they have got it. One enterprising employer found that his employees worked better when they had loud-speakers about the place; at the same time working much faster.

If this succeeded in an office, there is no reason why it should not succeed in a school. Especially ours. Work would become a pleasure instead of a bore. Imagine (if you can) doing geography to the strains of "Twilight in Turkey." "Have you got any castles, baby?" might stimulate our architectural abilities, while no German lesson would be complete without "Bei mir bist du schön." The idea would be impracticable, however, in the chemistry lab., as the hum from the hydrogen sulphide would drown any incidental music. Besides, any piece of music coming into the lab. would be immediately decomposed, analysed, or gassed, before it had time to make itself recognised.

The idea of music in the School could be developed in other ways also. I propose that each master should adopt a simple signature tune, and if he whistled or chanted it as he entered the form-room, how enjoyable would school become! Consider the time the arrangement would save. Imagine it! Gone is all the dreary bother of looking at a time-table. There would be no longer any need to ask Arthur (the guy who sits in front) what the next lesson was. We should just have to listen for the dulcet tones of the French master crooning the "Marseillaise," or the voice of the German master yodelling "Der Walz muss lustig sein," and before he arrived we should have our books ready, and the lesson would start right away. The only drawback to this scheme is the fact that the masters might possibly object to taking part in it.

Do you ever get tired of hearing the jarring r-r-r-ring of the bell when the end of a lesson comes? Of course, you do. Music would remedy all this; if we had loud speakers installed in every classroom, we could be gently informed of the end of morning school by that startling composition "Dinner music for a pack of hungry cannibals." Break would be heralded by "Everything stops for tea" (or Oxo, as the case may be). I would not insult your intelligence by telling you that at four-thirty we should be ushered out of school by Mr. Ambrose's rendering of "When day is done." This method would, I think, be highly successful. The soothing music would make us slowly aware of the end of the period, and—what is more important—we should not be waked up with a start.

This musical idea has inexhaustible possibilities. In the gym. especially it would prove a great advantage. Any vocal member of the form might start the ball rolling by singing George Formby's famous ditty "Keep Fit," and then, when we were working on the ropes, Mr. Clague might oblige with a pianoforte arrangement of "The Man on the Flying Trapeze." A chorus of "Horsey—Horsey" by the entire form would serve two purposes; it would keep them warm, and would also help any poor youth to perfect his *feet-through* on the horse.

If the whole idea were a success, perhaps, for a small share in the takings, Al Kennedy and his Sixth-form Swingers would consent to go down at break into the tuck-shop and play the lunch-time music. Sales would go up like lightning.

E.W.H.

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Spring

THE merry step of spring is drawing near once more, the forests will soon be teeming with bright forms, and storms will retire as the sky grows clear. We all have heard and read about what a young man's fancy turns to at this time of the year. The thoughts of one so young and inexperienced as I are far removed from the proverbial young man's! The naturalist and botanist will, of course, be thinking of budding nature, and the beauties of the countryside, so graphically depicted in my first sentence. The thoughts of a sportsman (if such a term can be applied to a schoolboy) will be concerned with cricket, vivid green, and flashing bat. The swimmer, in his imagination, will already be plunging into the glassy, green depths of the super bathing pool, or perhaps, if he is "tough," ploughing his turbulent way through the frothy grey waters of the sea. Perhaps some minds think of more dreary things, such as preparations for S.C. and H.S.C. Well, one man's meat is another man's poison. J.F.P. (VIa.)

A Modern Battleship

THESE great floating fortresses are among the most costly weapons of war. The visit of H.M.S. *Royal Oak* to Gladstone Dock, Liverpool, gave one the chance to realise this fact. This battleship has a displacement of thirty-thousand tons, cost nine million pounds to build, which is more than the cost of the Mersey Tunnel, and has a crew of a thousand men. The ship's armaments consist of six 15-inch guns. She is also equipped with four 21-inch torpedo-tubes. Each torpedo is fifteen feet long and costs two thousand pounds. The ship carries its own 'army,' better known as the Marines. This body of men has an arsenal of its own on the ship, complete with rifles, machine-guns, hand-grenades, and even howitzers. The multi-machine guns and anti-aircraft guns are of great interest.

In some parts the armour is over a foot thick, and this is not surprising when one has seen the great one-ton shells which a modern battleship can fling twenty miles. When a salvo of these shells is fired, nearly everyone on the ship keeps his mouth wide open, as the shock of the explosions has been known to snap a man's teeth together and break them. The *Royal Oak* was re-fitted a few years ago, and now she is well up to the high standard of Britain's Navy. B.R.M. (VIa.)

Trenching

IN 1932 I started a small hole about 3 ft. by 3 ft. I dug down to the sandstone, which was three feet below the surface; it was a hard job, but soon I was two feet into the sandstone.

In June 1933 I started a narrow passage that went along for eighteen feet; I made it to a depth of five feet. At the end of this I dug another hole 4ft. by 8 ft., and in the middle of it I put a small post on which the beams of the roof rested. The far end of it fell in three days later, when I was working down there. I was not very much hurt, but was scratched in places. That part was filled in, but I still had the other end nearest the passage, and this was made into a room. In the sides I cut some seats.




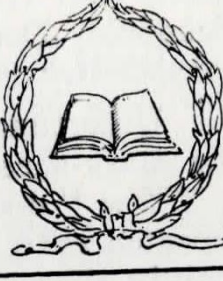
In 1935 I began another passage (they all started from the hole made in 1932). This led to the side of the garden. So I went under the hedge and eight feet along into the field, and came to a dead end. About this time I made a steel grating, and used this end as a prison. It was very useful.

There was one trouble in the winter: this was water which very gradually came in. The roof was made of wooden planks, tarpaulin, then half an inch of soil. That kept the rain out; but it was drains I needed, so I made deep holes from the floor downwards, which took a certain amount of water away. Then I started a sloping gutter, and put a pipe in. At the end of it I made a big hole, where a lot of water could be drained away from the floor.

In 1937 I made the prison into a passage because of a boy from Portugal, who was very dangerous. He is nine years old and has an air-gun. My friend and I made a narrow, shallow, winding passage, which led to a small room. It branched off from a dark place in the trench; you could not see any passage from the trench, but in the room you could have lights going, which could not be seen from the passage. After I found that he had stopped coming, I began again, and made it into a great big room. Here I now hold meetings, and have a fire in the wall, and a chimney which rises a foot above the ground. There are two doors, one in the room for emergencies, and one at the end, where all the passages meet. I use the trench for meetings of the Stag patrol of our own troop. In the room I am able to seat six people. In the evening I make a fire, and take my homework there. The fire, a storm lamp, and three

candles light up the room very well. Friends come, and have games of darts. Boys from the form make two sides, and one side uses the trench to defend themselves from the other side.

J.H.R. (IVb.)

ATKIN	STITT	TATE	W'MINSTER
			
HOUSE NOTES			

ATKIN.

IN this term's Rugby matches the Seniors have lost two and won one, while the Bantams have won two and lost one. It is very likely that the house would have done much better if there were not so much difficulty in making up the teams, the response to every appeal for players being very poor. It is to be hoped that this difficulty will not be experienced during the cricket season.

The House is unfortunate in losing Mr. Wild. We extend a hearty welcome to his successor, Mr. Fox.

Since the last issue of the *Visor*, we have held our annual social. The attendance at this event was good, eighty persons, including masters, being present. After partaking of one of Janny's feeds, the company assembled in the gym., where competitions were held, and after some very entertaining performances by several masters and boys, the evening's celebrations were ended by community singing.

On Speech Day, Pearson was presented with cricket colours, whilst Black and Edwards received colours for rugby.

We hope to be able to uphold the traditions of the House at the school sports, which will be held next term, and during the cross-country run at the end of this term.

I.R.

STITT.

WE have had what may be called an average term. In the Rugby Championship, we rose from fourth place to second, mainly owing to the efforts of the Bantams. The Seniors beat Atkin (20—2), and Tate (27—15), but lost to Westminster (0—28). The Bantams, though they lost all three matches last term, won them all this term. We should like to congratulate Bell (G. R.), Beer, Griffith and Milne (Seniors), and Schofield, Dodd, Gentle, and Pimblett (Bantams) on their consistently good play for the House throughout the year.

Unfortunately, we remain in our old position of fourth in the mark-sheets. This, as has previously been said, is due to a few "detention-hogs" who do not seem to pay heed to repeated entreaties. If these boys would realise that it is mainly through them that we lost the Coronation Cup last year, and try to mend their ways, the House would be greatly improved.

We wish to appeal here for as many Stitt boys as possible to take part in both Senior and Junior Cross-country runs and in the School sports next term. First in swimming, second in rugby—what of cross-country, athletics, cricket, and the Coronation Cup? Up Stitt, and at 'em!

R.B.

TATE.

SINCE our last issue the House has held its annual Social, which was enjoyed by all. After a good feed the House spent the rest of the evening in games and competitions, and the concluding item, a treasure hunt, was much appreciated.

On the Sports' field we are experiencing a rather lean time, and have missed the stalwarts who carried the House to victory so many times last year. There is, however, some promising material lower down the School, and the Bantams have performed with credit against Stitt and Atkin, although they lost rather badly to Westminster.

We offer congratulations to Lawless and Gullan on their performances with the School 1st XV., of which they are permanent members.

We are sorry to record that our scholastic achievements show no improvement on last term, and we no longer occupy the proud position in the mark-sheets that we formerly held.

We do not believe that Tate, as a house, is less brainy than it used to be, but are inclined to ascribe our failure to those of us who nightly haunt the detention room.

In conclusion, it is to be hoped that the House will make every effort to retain the Athletic Sports trophy which it held last year, as well as the Coronation Cop, of which Tate were the first holders.

WESTMINSTER.

ONCE again Westminster has won the House Rugby Championship, but not by so great a margin as last year. This term the Senior team has won all matches played, but the Bantam team has not played at all well.

In the 1st XV. we are represented by Clarke, Edelsten, Fallows, Kennedy, Sarginson, and Weir; in the 2nd XV. by Garry, Shipley, Tomlinson, Tresidder, and Young; and in the 3rd XV. by Beacall and Weir (A. G.)

It seems a great pity that the Bantams cannot do better. They do not play together as a team, and a great many of them are not very keen. It is upon these juniors that the future of the House depends, and it is hoped that they will take more interest in the fortunes of the House in future. They have won only one of the three matches played this term, losing to Atkin and Stitt, but beating Tate.

We hope to be successful in the cross-country run at the end of term.

Early this term we held our House social, which proved a great success. After tea, games were played, and an entertainment was given by masters and boys of the House. Mr. Haime gave us one of his monologues, and Mr. Morris told some of his yarns, while Messrs. Allison and J. H. Jones sang a duet. Fallows and Sutherland did their double act, and Powell and Blanthorne were skilled instrumentalists.

J.R.S.

Library Notes

LACK of a subject is the usual bane of the writer of these annals, but this time there was no shortage of topics. The difficulty was to find a historian. He on whom choice eventually fell makes no apology for his inability to enfold his subject in the mystery formerly so dear to the compilers of Library Notes.

Topics he had in plenty: his difficulty was one of selection. On consulting the censor, he found he would have to omit much which would prove interesting to many. He was allowed, however, to include some items of interest, and amongst these the following are not the least:

One of the principal events this term was the finding by one of our number of a valuable piece of ivory, believed to belong to the Neolithic period. The discoverer values this treasure to such an extent that he will on no account let it leave his mouth, where it is carefully disguised as a tooth.

One day this term a member of the Advanced suddenly discovered that he had lost his memory. He chose a very awkward time at which to do this—during a Rugger match. One of the results of this occurrence was that he developed supernatural powers, treating the future as the past, and ignoring the present. Many of us envied him this latter quality, but our envy was short-lived, for soon afterwards the seer was unfortunate enough to find his memory again (or at least as much of it as he needed) in time for the exams.

Owing to the kindness of the Birkenhead Corporation, the élite of the Library were recently taken for a motor tour in one of the Corporation's own special coaches. The tour included such beauty spots as Gendarme Corner, Tacklim Low, and Down-on-the-Line. Refreshments were provided en route, and the travellers returned home very tired after their long trip. Our thanks are due to Colonel Whoopee-Louee, who graciously condescended to act as guide, pointing out to us many objects of historical or other interest.

During these exams. several table-tennis enthusiasts began to practise their noble art in the lower regions of the School. These illegal doings continued until the Powers That Be suddenly put a stop to them, and, observing the high temperature of the players, sentenced them to three days' hard labour in a room specially cooled for their accommodation.

One of our number has been promoted to the high rank of commercial traveller to a firm of cigarette-lighter manufacturers, and whenever seen in School is busy advertising his wares. We believe he has transacted no business so far, although his perseverance is a model to many of us.

As we have previously remarked, we could write more, but for the existence of censors, so the only thing for us to do is to cease to write, and, if we have missed anything of importance, carry it abroad by word of mouth.

Form Notes

VIIs.

HIRST has written what he calls an "essay in very good taste" entitled:

TUBULAR SUSTENANCE.

The banana are great remarkable frute. He are constricted in the same arkitektural stile as honorable sosage; difference being, skin of sosage are habitually consumed, while it not advisable to eat rapping of banana.

Praps are also intrisisting the following diffrences between too objectks: Banana held aloft while concuming, sosage usually left in reklining position. Banana are first green in culler then gradjully turn yelloish. Sosage start out with indefnit culler and retane same indefnitly. Sosage depend for eriation upon yuman being or stuffin masheen, wile banana are product of honourable muther nayture. Both artikle resembelle the other in that nither have jooce or colonel of any discription.

In case of sosage, both finishes attacked to other sosage; honorable banana on opposit hand are joyned on one end to stem—other termination are entyrelly loose. Finally, banana are strickly member of vegetable fambly while affiliation of sosage are offen undicyded.

Now a few excerpts from Form-Notes sent in by members of VIIs. :—

"This term has been one of dullness and toil."

"In chemistry, a boy was asked what Salts of Lemon were. Miller immediately exclaimed 'Lemonade powder, sir.'"

"We have earned the title of 'So many lumps of suet.'"

"Kennedy keeps up his dancing instruction, and Ryan unconsciously taps his pencil, whilst Hirst looks quite melancholy and glum."

"We in VIIs. do not think it quite the thing to wear only shorts and gym shoes for gym, so we have asked special permission to wear our ties as well."

Via.

EXAMS loom ahead which make it impossible for the "average boy" of the form to enjoy life. Muir alone can still enjoy the lighter side of life, yet even his joy is cynical. As it is Spring, Muir thinks of

BIRDS.

Birds have figured prominently in history. They are mentioned in Greek mythology, and are immortalised proverbially, e.g., "birds of a feather. . ."; "A Bird in the hand . . .", etc.

In these enlightened times there are two important varieties: jailbirds and the birds who sing their way home from the local hostelry. Then there is the one next door, who, at the coming of Spring, borrows the lawnmower, neglecting to return it, except on demand, having previously lent it out amongst his friends in the neighbourhood.

In addition to these types, there is the species oozing from your neighbour's wireless set (yes, the same one) not to be confused with the B.B.C. Nightingale. Last, and also least, there is the non-existent variety, this apparently paradoxical assertion being exemplified by (a) the one we give the dud comedian, and (b) the little one which tells fond parents that one has been in detention.

Recently the School Ship *Conway* became news when she quitted her anchorage in the Mersey and went into dock to be overhauled. Our form correspondent, Weir, was despatched to the spot, and here is his report which he telephoned us:

At last I sighted the *Conway* moving slowly towards the Victoria Dock. When she appeared at the dock entrance, it seemed as if she was too broad to enter, and there was much shouting between the dock officials and the tug-boat captains. The *Conway* had two tugs, one at the stern, the other at the prow. After manœuvring her backwards and forwards, the tugs finally managed to get her bow into the dock entrance, where she made slow progress, bumping her sides continually on the dock wall. There were many more boats waiting to pass through the gates into the docks, but this big, cumbersome man-o-war barred the way. She had been stripped of all her movable gear, and most of the cadets had left her on a small rowing boat. Where I stood, many cameramen were taking photographs and news-reels of the cadets and the ship.

Meanwhile, the dock gates had been closed, and the water level was being adjusted to that of the dock, and soon the gate leading to the dock was opened for the *Conway* to enter. She moved slowly along the narrow entrance, her black and white sides scraping and bumping the wall. The tugs picked up speed when they were in the basin, and after they had passed under the lifting bridge, she berthed by the quayside to await repairs.

Many members of our form are keen rugger enthusiasts, and most probably inspired Vincent to try and write

THE TRY.

The ball came out of the back of the scrum,
The scrum-half collected and started to run.
It went to the stand-off, the centre-three-Q,
Who dodged a chap deftly, and neatly cut through.
There were yells from the crowd, as he fell with a bang,
But, in falling, he managed to pass to his man;
The winger tore down at a hurricane speed,
The full-back loomed up, and tried to impede.
The back tried to tackle, a good swallow dive,
But missed and got up, more dead than alive.
The winger, meanwhile, had run on unassailed,
While the back felt a fool, because he had failed.
When the winger touched down, the crowd gave a roar,
And he felt very pleased, 'cause he'd not scored before.
He converted the try like a shot from a gun.
The whistle then blew, and his team had won.

J. N. Smith, who takes a special interest in modern nautical developments, here recounts for our instruction some of his recent experiences aboard the M.V. *Athel Knight*:

The *Athel Knight* is a molasses tanker belonging to the United Molasses Co. We visited the ship one Wednesday afternoon when she was lying in the West Float discharging her cargo. We were shown around by a cadet, who took us first to the bridge. We were shown the gyro-compass which will steer the ship on the course set without the usual helmsman. Although this compass costs three thousand pounds, it is set by the standard compass, costing only twenty pounds.

We were next allowed to look into the tanks, whence the molasses is pumped through pipes to tanks ashore. On cold days the molasses freezes and will not flow, so steam is blown into it to melt it.

Our guide next took us to see the steering gear in the stern of the ship. On the way we passed the refrigerator and saw great pieces of meat being thrown into its depths. The steering gear was situated beneath the poop, and was fitted with great springs which, we were told, took the shock of rudder kicking in rough weather. We had now finished our tour of inspection, and, saying good-bye to our guide, took our leave.

During the last few months the international situation has steadily been growing worse. Britain has, accordingly, decided to increase her armament programme still further, and, to help in this, many factories, usually engaged in producing machinery for commerce, have started armament production as a temporary measure. Grice tells us more about it in his contribution, with which we will conclude :

SHADOW FACTORIES.

Many factories engaged in the production of machinery have started armament manufacture, as an aid to themselves and the government. Once jigs, dies, and other necessary equipment are obtained, the factory can produce arms almost endlessly.

I had the good fortune to be able to visit such a factory, which was engaged in making shells. The factory had previously housed a sugar-crushing plant for over a hundred years. In one corner of the factory there was exhibited a complicated drawing of one of the first sugar presses, built in the eighteenth century.

The cases of the shells were first constructed and to them was added a copper band at the rear and a detachable nose, after which they are sent to another factory to be filled with explosive.

Vib.

FRECKLETON has something to say about stamp-collecting :

This curious and unaccountable, yet thoroughly enjoyable, hobby usually starts at an early age, when the victim receives a stamp-album. Generally this costs sixpence, and can be bought at the local store. The next need is stamps to fill the album ; there may be a few about the house, the rest are obtained by buying very large packets for very small sums.

The budding philatelist may now find that he has some duplicate stamps; he may then be able to exchange these with other collectors and so build up his own collection. The next stage is the purchase of a catalogue to price his gems. He will probably have many disappointments with stamps which he thought would be bound to be worth a great deal; he will also get some surprises when he sees the value of some dirty old stamps. If he is keen, he will keep up his hobby as long as he lives.

Bradshaw has visited the British Industries Fair at Birmingham:

This section of the B.I.F. consists mainly of heavy machinery, furnaces, and welding apparatus. As one enters the building (old aeroplane hangars converted), one is greeted by the sound of working machines and the hissing of steam valves on the boilers. There are numerous small stands displaying oven and kitchen ware, and also big presses, with pressures of up to 1,500 tons. Machines for the production of wooden articles are another feature. The huge muffle-furnaces were working when we were there, and their heat was terrific. The stand belonging to the British Railways was the biggest attraction. Here one could get leaflets and booklets of most of the English Counties. We left at three o'clock, and arrived home about three hours later.

Finally, Hallam will tell you about the broadcasting of dance music:

A large proportion of the programme broadcast by the B.B.C. consists of various forms of dance music. The Corporation, realising the different tastes of its listeners, endeavours to please everyone by dealing fairly with every section of entertainment. The dance music arrangements are attended to by the Variety Dept., which, during the last few months, has organised new types of dance music features which are broadcast regularly. One of the new experiments is to produce an entertainment which is provided throughout by a dance orchestra. This idea has proved popular because of its lack of monotony; ordinary programmes of dance music tend to become uninteresting, when one tune incessantly follows another. The production of dance music programmes is not a straightforward task, owing to the different styles into which modern dance music may be divided. While some people enjoy listening to

the strains of the "sweet" type of rhythm, others prefer a programme of the more boisterous and noisy kind, better known as "swing music." The likes and dislikes of the listening public are attended to by the B.B.C., the result being that they have organised these novel programmes which have proved so successful.

Remove j.

OUR literary efforts this term are of the usual high quality, as can be seen from Jenks's:

ODE TO RUGBY MATCH AGAINST CONWAY, or A GRAVE MISTAKE.

'Twas at the royal feast, for B.I. won
In Conway's pavilion
Aloft in awful state
The Third Fifteeners sate
On their imperial throne.
The valiant players were seated round
(Their various limbs with bandage bound)
A table. A groaning table on which food was found
By the members of B.I.'s gallant side,
Which in prime of youth and conscious pride,
(O happy, happy, happy team)
Did out to battle go,
Did out to battle go,
Against Conway's *Second Fifteen*.

Speech Day is one of the School events recently in evidence, and the following extract, written by R. H. Howell of the *Clutterbuck Times* is taken from that famous journal:

THE DAY OF MUCH SPEECH.

And it came to pass on the fourth day of the third month that the whole tribe, together with the Elders of the tribe, assembled in the Great Temple. And the Elders were arranged in flowing robes of great beauty. Now at the High Altar sate the Chief Priest and many of the Scribes. And it came to pass that certain of the Scribes arose and spoke words of great wisdom unto the tribe. Then the Chief Priest proclaimed the names of certain members of the tribe, and lo, one of the Scribes, who was highly honoured, presented unto them scrolls,

some small and some large, even according to their several talents. But such as were despised by the Chief Priest and the Elders, they received nothing. And it came to pass that the whole tribe sang lustily, with a great voice, and the scribes were well pleased. And behold the tribe departed, yea, every man unto his own house.

Although we already hear far too much about detention, we could not omit this gem of Wolstenholme's:

The master sat behind his desk,
Holding the dreaded sheet;
" Oh, where can I find a noisy lad
Whom I may put in det.?"
Then up and spake a rowdy youth,
And a noisy lad was he;
" Oy, what is the answer ter number four,
An' also ter number three?"
The master heard his noisy voice
And down did put his name.
" Please, sir, it wasn't I 'oo spoke
An' I am not to blame."
The boy then called the master names,
But he was quite immune;
" All right, then you'll come back to school
On Wednesday afternoon."

Our poetry is stronger than our prose, and we will end our notes with another note, one of optimism, from Owen:

Spring is in the air
And don't the schoolboys know it.
They trip along like little lambs
And all forget about exams,
'Cause holidays are near at hand
And spring is in the air.
Spring is in the air.
The masters seem to sense it.
Instead of shouting o'er the room
And sending schoolboys to their doom,
They sit about and sweetly croon,
For spring is in the air.

Remove A.

WE begin with two of the time-honoured limericks ; the first is by Dorrity :

There once was a cowboy called Dan,
Who was more like gorilla than man.
But the " West " has progressed,
And old Dan's laid to rest,
For last week he was killed by a tram.

This is Bryden's effort :—

A young sailor once went to the sea,
And his heart was as light as could be.
When he lost sight of land,
He said " Isn't this grand ?
But I wish I could keep down my tea."

Foxcroft writes about :

THE SPORT.

A boy of a School, whose name is unknown,
At Algebra, English, and Physics did groan ;
His life was a misery, his pals were not true ;
In spite of his pains, no right could he do !
He spent hours at his French, but he did it all wrong,
And to do all his Algebra didn't leave long.
And to school in the morning he came with misgiving,
With looks on his face, as though life weren't worth living.
When asked for his maths, well, I hardly dare mention ;
Suffice it to say, he got a detention ;
As the lessons went on, his outlook was grimmer,
And his hope of success became dimmer and dimmer.
But his heart cheered up, when gym came around,
And his spirits went up with a leap and a bound.
To him a lesson on gym was a treat,
" Better a dunce and a sport than a cheat."

Thomas relates :

A TALE OF THE ARCTIC.

Now I was born in the Arctic,
The place where the mighty whale blows,
(The reason for that is quite simple—
He ain't got a rag for his nose).

Now when I was only a baby,
My face was the colour of dough;
My pa sat all day in his igloo,
While I rolled around in the snow.

But my ma fell in love with a trader,
And they thought they would flee to the West,
(The place where the tough guys chew tin-tacks,
And spit rust, with zeal and with zest).

But the Redskins came down from the westward,
And yelled for our blood, one and all;
My father interred himself under the snow,
But the trader and ma—they did fall.

Now father and I live alone on the ice,
The trader and mother are dead,
The Redskins returned to the place whence they came,
And went to kill bison instead.

We end with an epilogue by Shimmin:

When day is done and night doth fall,
We wander home,
Unless in dete.
We have to meet
Again;

And then through "tots,"
And ink, and blots,
We wade with utmost pain.
At 5-15
We can be seen—
Insane.

Remove 1.

A H Fallows has been so good as to write some verse for us,
the least we can do in return is to include it:

For four long years it's been my plight,
Three times a year for one whole night,
A *Visor* article to indite,
For a magazine which people use
To light their fires or clean their shoes.

This poem has encouraged us in our belief that we may yet see an article by Clarke. Perhaps he might find time to write one for us while waiting for the second man home in the cross-country.

Davies's poems, also, are distinguished more by their rarity than by their brilliance. Anyway, judge for yourself from this sample :

There was a young fellow called Dale,
Who bought an old car in a sale.
He said to his miss,
" I'll do sixty on this " ;
And sixty he did—in the jail.

Finally, as a contrast, we have something often met with :

A SCHOOL GRUMBLE.

We grumble at the signal
That calls us every day
To sit down on benches hard
And swot our lives away.
We grumble in the class-room,
We grumble on the stair,
But if someone else miscalls our school,
He'd better beware.
We grumble at our masters,
And the way they make us work,
And we grumble at the canings
They give us when we shirk ;
But it's no easier
For them to work with us,
With our clatter and our fidgets,
Our laziness and fuss.

VI.

TURTLE has written one of the eternal limericks :

There was an old man from Tranmere,
Whose hat was exceedingly queer.
With a bow on the side,
Under which he could hide
When the rain and the snowstorms drew near.

Our next is a joint effort by Woodward and Ashworth, whose title is:

HOMEWORK.

We wish the homework that we get
Could be wiped out, and then they'd let
Us homeward go with brighter looks,
Instead of school-bags filled with books
For Homework!

'The masters say we don't learn much;
'They say our work is "Double-Dutch."
If homework's cancelled they would see
How wise they've been to let us free
From Homework!

There are rumours flying about that Currie and Williams have actually been seen with a school cap, and that Sudworth was very disappointed when he could not gain his place in the Bantams. The form as a whole is saner since Ceha left, but Cartwright still sits dreamily under the master's desk, and Morrell and Huntriss are doing their best to make up for Ceha's absence. Morrell, however, has been kind enough to write some lines, for which he refuses to apologise to Ambrose:

When school is done
At half-past four,
In det. I stay,
And think of all the fun I haven't had that day.
That yearning, returning,
To be home at my tea,
I know, sir,
Won't go, sir,
Until in det. you don't put me.

Vj.

While we have not been very fortunate this term in Rugger, having won only two of our matches against VI., though we are well represented in the School XV's, with two 3rd team members, four Bantams, and a Junior Bantam. Next term, however, we hope to do better at cricket, for we have a strong side.

Now here is Ferguson to sing a farewell ballad to Mr. Wilde, who left in the middle of the term:

CHEERIO.

(To be sung to tune of "Cheerio.")

Cheerio, Mr. Wild, Cheerio.
 All the School's very sad to see you go.
 Looking back we find that you've left behind
 Some foul examination papers,
 But never mind.
 In detention many boys have been for you,
 But seldom do they come out feeling blue.
 So let's forget 'bout all our troubles,
 And remember they're like bubbles.
 Cheerio, Mr. Wild, Cheerio!!

While we are still feeling poetic, here is a poem by Hewitt:

Edge, he is a naughty boy;
 He goes to church on Sunday,
 And prays that he may have the strength
 To tease old ——— on Monday.
 Edge, he is a model boy.
 His cheek's no more resented.
 And everything that he did wrong
 He duly has repented.

Again we have produced a large number of limericks, that printed being the work of McIntosh:

There was a young fellow called Green
 Who invented a flogging machine.
 At the ninety-ninth stroke
 The bally thing broke,
 And hit poor old Green on the bean.
 And with that piece of poetic justice we will leave you.

IVa.

THE person to be blamed for the following efforts is Davies:

There was a young man, so I've heard,
 Who thought he could fly like a bird.
 Before hundreds of people
 He jumped from a steeple:
 On his tomb is the date it occurred.

There once was a young man, a crooner,
Who went for a sail in a schooner.

He sailed on for days
In a terrible haze,
And ended up somewhere in Poonah.

Even if these poems are not original, the following passage by Gaskell probably is:

ABOARD THE S.S. "BELGRAVIAN."

One day during half-term, a friend accompanied me on a visit to the S.S. Belgravian of Ellerman Line. We passed through the galley, which contained a big stove, shelves, and boards. In the pantry, which we visited next, we saw cups hanging from hooks in the ceiling. A steel ladder led down into the store-room, which was filled with boxes of biscuits, tins of milk, and large quantities of other foods. To port of the pantry was the Officers' Mess, having in it four round oak tables and four chairs at each table. The floor was covered with a thick rug. The crew's quarters consisted of our rooms, and the cook's room and hospital were adjacent. We then returned on deck, and, after having a cup of cocoa, went back home.

Coleclough was so impressed by the recent School film show that he has immortalised it in poetry:

THE SCHOOL FILMS.

One evening not so long ago
To the film show we did go.
Many boys were packed in there,
Perhaps because the price was fair.

By the kindness of Mr. Hirst
A cartoon on the screen was first;
And then a film of interest,
But this was not to be the best.

For last a film of mystery
We did enjoy most certainly.
At last we parted; hoping there
Would be another show next year.

We do not always take prefects seriously, as can be judged from the following poem by Bibby:

There once was a prefect called Spike
Who could find no use for his bike.
It wouldn't seat two,
So what did he do?
He had to take her for a hike.

IVb.

IN IVb. very little has happened. In the Summer Holidays, however, G. Jones had a little luck, but the majority of us are under the deepest depression:

Last summer I went to camp with the Crusaders at a place called Southwold. The King's camp was very near ours, and while we were there he paid it a visit. He flew some of the way, and came the rest by car. I saw him as his car passed, and I was in the crowd that followed it. The police from neighbouring towns surrounded the camp and made everybody stay outside.

The policeman patrolling near where I stood when walking one way had his back to me. I, of course, took advantage of this fact to slip between two tents by jumping over guy ropes. There was a big crowd of campers, news-reel men, and press reporters inside the camp, and I at once started to edge my way towards the front. Once there I had to wait a few minutes while the King changed into shorts and an open-necked shirt. I was trying to get my camera ready, and, as I was doing this the excited campers pushed me forward, until I was right in front of everyone else. Then I had a shock. The King said to me: "If you want a good picture, stand further back."

I told all the boys, and the leader of our camp laughed at me. But the next day what the King had said to me appeared in the *Daily Mail* report of his visit.

Well, on that fatal day in January we all returned to school, and in that very first week Henshaw's desk reached a state of collapse. It has remained so throughout the term. This continual squeaking together with the laughing that resulted from it, and the fact that we are eating sweets and toffees all the time, led to the following state of affairs.

"The dete. room is filled unto the door,
The sheets lie strewn around the floor."

As the prize-giving approached, the singing rehearsals became more and more frequent. We grew accustomed to hearing our sweet ringing tones described as similar to those of dying ducks in pain. We were proud to find, however, that one of our members, Bragger, received a five years' attendance certificate.

We shall have to close now, as we have French homework.

IVj.

BEFORE we present our literary contributions, we have several important local news items of special interest to members of our form.

The term began well, as we had not soiled the detention sheets with any names until two weeks after returning. Soon, however, we were our usual selves, and life is now pursued with more vigour.

Much consternation was caused when during the term Mr. Paris added ten minutes to our regular period by turning a deaf ear to the bell.

Bennett, our humorist, is still as unhappy as ever, but brightens up now and then, bursting into uncontrollable laughter for no reason at all.

Haughton, who moves in high scientific circles and represents the form in the Scientific Society, has struck up an acquaintance with Cook, and in certain quarters it is suggested that they have combined forces to work on a new aeronautical design.

The form takes a very active interest in rugby football still, and during the term has been able to field ten men during the various inter-house matches.

Here is a news flash from outside the form room, contributed by Tunna and entitled:

A VISIT TO MANXLAND.

One day, we went to Liverpool to catch the Isle of Man boat. While we were waiting for it to start, mail vans brought the letters and parcels, and they were put in the ship's hold. Other vans and carts brought different things to the ship. The ship we crossed on was the new turbine steamer "Fenella." At last we started, and we began our four hours' journey.

It was three and a half hours before we sighted land again. When we had docked, we got off the ship and walked to the horse-tram which would take us to our friends.

We wonder if Tunna was sea-sick when crossing.

To conclude we present a gem of English verse composed by one of the form's leading poets, Malcolm :

There was a young fellow named Parry,
Who thought Greta Garbo he'd marry.

He stood at the church,
But was left in the lurch,
For Greta had fled thence to Paris !

IIIa.

THIS term most of us in IIIa. have resorted to speed. We have turned to rugger wholeheartedly, and have now left soccer behind altogether. This urge has even produced members of the bantam and junior bantam teams.

Now let us continue with our contributions. Once more speed prevails : Ball discusses the latest aeroplanes :

The aeroplanes of to-day are miracles. The new Armstrong-Whitworth airliner *Ensign* weighs about twenty tons, and can attain a maximum speed of two hundred miles per hour. This class of machine carries forty people in the type for use between the Continent and Britain, but in the design for Empire use it accommodates twenty-seven people.

England leads the way in the new composite 'plane which is to be used on the trans-Atlantic service. An American idea for this route is a mid-ocean sea-drome. The Imperial Airways now link four continents with flying boats. It takes one of these craft twelve days to reach Brisbane, Australia. The fastest seaplane in the world, belonging to Italy, can travel at four hundred and forty miles per hour.

All planes must pass a gruelling test for airworthiness. Every one must hold a certificate to show that it has been tested before passengers are allowed to travel within it.

Darlington, once more thinking of speed, admires the speed cop :

When fast cars he sees proceeding,
He goes after them for speeding.
He writes their names in his note-book brown ;
They'll have to pay fines of half-a-crown.
This is just to act as a warning
To stop them from speeding in the morning.

In his car bright and new
Rides this boy, dressed in blue.
Along the roads you'll see him pacing,
Preventing the young bloods from racing,
To make the roads safe for young and old
Is the only wish of this policeman bold.

Gould appears to be the only member of our form who has stuck to the good old slow things, except maybe those who sent in jokes and limericks. He chooses to ride on an elephant:

"I decided to chance it and climbed up the ladder to the seats on the elephant's back. But when it started to move, it wobbled like a jelly, and when the ride was finished, I felt as though I had just come off a boat after a very rough crossing."

At this point we shall have to leave you, and say au revoir till the Summer edition.

IIIb.

NOW that brains are exhausted by the strain of examinations, we are asked to be creative, an almost impossible task. Skelsey speaks for the form when he says:

We're told we must write for this blessed book,
So suppose we must by hook or by crook,
Though what we can say
Fills us with dismay.

Here goes, you can all take a look.

Hall relates than one day he saw two rafts moored to the bank of a lake, and, being inquisitive, he proceeded to examine one of them, but unfortunately the rope snapped and the raft carried him towards the middle of the lake. Then, to add to his distress, the raft broke, and he was obliged to swim for shore.

Was it after this adventure that he wrote the following?

One morning in the evening of a lovely afternoon,
The sun was shining mistily besides the brilliant moon,
I went down to the seashore which was green as it could be,
The grass was growing freely on a rainbow-coloured sea.
Some swallows trotted after me as gaily as you like,
And an octopus went skimming past me on a motor-bike.
Sea-horses played leap-frog and a worm began to prance,
Two tadpoles stood on tip-toe and performed a dainty dance.

A snail rushed round and round, and a fish began to
scream ;

And I awoke and found—it was nothing but a dream.

Keymer seems to have developed the art of rabbit catching. He says :

When I was on holiday near Shrewsbury I went out rabbit shooting with my father, but I was allowed to catch one animal in my own way. I managed to grab its hind legs as it was about to enter its burrow, and then I killed it by wringing its neck.

(No need for salt on its tail that time).

Present affairs have called forth comment from Shields :

Hitler's captured Austria ;
And Franco half of Spain ;
Rome's got Ethiopia ;
Who's the next to gain ?

And here is a familiar picture also by Shields :

Who's this coming down the street
With eight wheels clicking on his feet ?
'Tis the butcher's boy, I see,
With skates that cost him two and three.
But now he's fallen on the ground,
And loudly do his wails resound.

The limerick is ever popular. Heath gives us :

There was a young man of Calcutta
Who started to write M-U-T on a shutter.
In the middle of ' U '
A dusky Hindu
Knocked him head over heels in the gutter.

III.

IIIj., who continue to do good work in the School, here present a faithful account of their doings during the term.

Lloyd has met with several unfortunate accidents lately. Not being satisfied with bumping his head, he had to cut it as well, and for the better part of the term has had to wear bandages which looked like a turban. His life is also made miserable by regular visits to the detention room. Peever still leads the form in the mark-sheets, and Baker still talks incessantly

before prayers. Peers or "Musket" has started composing slanderous limericks which are bound to get him into trouble sooner or later. Bolton, or "Butch," as he has been nicknamed, has started a campaign of terror, and even prefects tremble when he passes.

Our football team has done very well, playing against IIIb. and the Juniors. We have not lost or drawn a match yet, which results from the large number of goals scored by Peers, Bolton, Baker, and Boston. Our goalkeeper, Peever, has played well all through the season.

Here is a verse (?) by Mandy:

There was a young fellow named Dipper,
Who fished in the sea for a kipper.
He caught flounders and whales,
Crabs, tubs and old pails,
And the sole of a thrown away slipper.

Followed by N. Peters's contribution:

There was a young chappie from Kent,
Who once on a message was sent.
He started to skid,
And fell down a grid,
But was pulled up by a kindly old gent.

What talent we have!

To turn to more serious things we will now accompany Moyes on a visit to:

A CATTLE MARKET.

One day towards the end of my camping holiday, I was taken for a walk at Conway in Wales. During our walk we noticed a cattle market and decided to visit. We saw many sheep, cattle, and pigs in the different stalls, and in one place saw large weighing scales, round which an auction sale was taking place. A bull was driven on to the scale and weighed, and then a man, who had a punch like a ticket collector's, climbed up on the railings surrounding the scales and punched a hole in the bull's ear. At last we emerged on the other side of the market, and then continued our walk home.

IIIj's French is improving, so we are now able to wish you "au revoir" till next term.

Junior School Notes

WHEN the last *Visor* went to press, most of us in the Junior School were intent upon our prize-giving. The great event was held in Beechcroft on December 20th, and proved a most enjoyable occasion. The evening opened with the singing of carols. Then followed the presentation of Prizes, an interesting talk by Mr. Robert Galloway, and finally a dramatic presentation of *A Christmas Carol*. All those who took part in the play are to be commended for their good performance, and special praise is due to those who for the first time took speaking parts—Cemlyn Williams as Mrs. Cratchit, Yates as Martha, Berry as Belinda, and Blakeway as Mr. Fezzawig.

The present term has brought its unfortunate quota of sickness, but there has been no lack of enthusiasm for all activities. The boys' gardens are looking extremely gay and well kept, and in the classrooms tadpoles are in a flourishing condition.

Hands are busy, too. Many boys are really efficient knitters, and they are using their talent to make squares for blankets in answer to an appeal from a Mission in China.

Hobbies of all kinds seem to be flourishing, particularly the ever-popular Meccano. Edwards (Form I.) tells of a thrilling visit to the Meccano works. He saw the manufacture of all the separate parts, the slipways where the painting process is carried out, the assembling of parts, and then the showroom where the cars were sent round on an exhibition table.

Blakeway (Form I.) has found a really good tongue-twister:—Ten tongue-tied tailors twisted tinted thistles with their teeth. If ten tongue-tied tailors twisted tinted thistles with their teeth, who tinted the tinted thistles that the ten tongue-tied tailors twisted?

Ware (Form II.) asks us to believe this story entitled:

AUNTIE'S BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

A young lady entered a wireless shop and said she wanted to ee some sets. The assistant asked "What make"? The young lady was rather undecided, so he read out a list of the makes in stock. Eventually he came to 'Ferranti.' At that the young lady cried, "That must be it, it is for Auntie."

Wood (Form II.) says :

There was a new prefect named Wright,
Who once tried to sail a box-kite.

One day it fell down
In the middle of town,
And was lost for ever from sight.

And a joke from Moring (Form II.) :

Teacher : " Give me a sentence containing ' analyse.' "

Billy : " Anna says she didn't speak, so Anna lies."

Badminton Club

MANY members of the Upper School still continue to congregate every Friday evening in the gym., where they play two hours' strenuous badminton. By doing this they are complying with the order of the day, which is to get fit and to keep fit, and are also providing themselves, at very small cost, with an evening's entertainment.

We, in the Badminton Club, being very unselfish, and having a strong love for our fellow-creatures, extend a hearty welcome to all who wish to join the club.

The club, as usual, maintains a very high standard of play ; has one of the finest courts in the north of England ; has its own snack bar, run by Janny, and spacious grounds where members are free to stroll during intervals of play.

CHATS ON THE COURT.

Does Young yet realise that Badminton is played on a grander scale than table tennis ?

Is Gullan too big to play in our bantams' singles competition ?

Has Mr. Thacker any more shuttlecocks left ?

Has Hamilton paid his sub. yet, and is he ever going to paint the lines ?

Can anybody lend me twopence to buy chocolate with ?
I'll give it him back in the morning.

All members wish to thank Mr. Thacker for the active support he gives to the club, and for his untiring services as Treasurer, a position which is no sinecure.

Boxing

THE Boxing Club is rapidly becoming popular, and is now one of the most important societies in the School. There is difficulty in providing room for all the aspiring (and usually perspiring) pugilists. All the members are keyed up to fever pitch over the coming match with Quarry Bank School.

The team to represent us has been in strict training for some weeks, and has been given valuable hints and help by Mr. A. D. Lewis and Mr. J. H. Jones. Facilities for training have not perhaps been as good as could be wished, but the members have not let this damp their ardour.

The team consists of the following :—Vanderwall, F. T. ; Bird, J. R. ; Nugent, J. R. ; Bell, J. F. ; Gibbons, A. R. ; Clarke, L. ; Beer, E. G. ; Roberts, V. ; Kennedy, D. ; Young, B. A. ; Bolton, K. J. ; Mackay, K. ; Ball, T. C. ; and Platt, L.

We wish them all success, and hope that they will leave their mark on Quarry Bank.

If there is space in next term's *Visor* we will try to give some account of each fight.

Chess Club

THE team this year has been chosen from Sarginson, Moore, Bell, Williams, A.C., Hayward, Tunna, and Morrell. Bell (jr.) has also played once. We have yet to win our first match, but in many ways we have been very unfortunate, losing to Holt, Merchant Taylors and Rock Ferry High School by 4 games to 3. Liverpool Institute, Collegiate, and Wallasey Grammar School all beat us by a good margin, however.

In the individual scores, Sarginson and Moore have won $2\frac{1}{2}$ games each, and Bell, Hayward, and Tunna one each.

Two tournaments are being played this year. It is hoped to have the results by the end of the term.

The Sixth Form Literary and Debating Society

IN contrast to last term, meetings have not been well attended, and we appeal for stronger support to be given to this, the oldest of the School's societies.

On January 25th, Mr. Morris read a paper to the Society on the Middle Rhine, illustrated with many interesting slides, showing the river-boats, vineyards, and village scenes.

On February 10th, an emergency business meeting was held, when ways and means of keeping the Society on its feet were discussed. This meeting was partly responsible for making possible the holding of a debate on the following Tuesday, when Hamilton proposed that capital punishment should be abolished. After a short, though interesting, debate the motion was lost by 4 votes to 6.

The next meeting was held on Tuesday, March 1st, when Moyes proposed that Mr. Eden's foreign policy was preferable to Mr. Chamberlain's. This motion was opposed by Hamilton. Mr. Harris also spoke for the motion, which was carried by 8 votes to 3; the House was united on one point, however—Mussolini was a scoundrel.

We hope to hold another meeting before the end of the term and of the present session. R.B.

Scout Notes

ON several evenings preceding Christmas Day the troop carollers entertained a large number of parents and friends. A collection to increase the Hut Fund was made in each district. Later in the holidays two rambles and one cycle tour were organised by Mr. Magee. The ramblers explored the footpaths and by-ways of the Shotwick and Burton districts, while the cyclists went further afield, making Halkyn their objective. Reasonably good weather helped to make these outings very enjoyable.

This term has not been a particularly busy one apart from the usual weekly meetings. A visit to the troop-meeting on February 18th by Mr. T. Cook was greatly appreciated. His yarns and novel ideas for games are always first-class. On March 15th a joint meeting with the 58th troop at their interesting headquarters was held. These joint meetings are always enjoyable affairs, and a great deal of benefit is derived from the interchange of ideas.

The Parents' Committee held a Whist Drive on February 18th, which proved a great success. The profits were in aid of the Hut Fund. Another drive will be held on March 25th. The troop is greatly indebted to the hard-working members of the Parents' Committee and to those friends who have given prizes for the Whist Drives.

On Friday, March 18th, the A.D.C., Mr. Wilson, is to attend the troop-meeting for the purpose of presenting Mr. Coughtrie with his S.M.'s warrant.

The annual Parents' Social will be held on Monday, March 21st, when films of the summer camp and the Jamboree will be shown.

The Hut Fund at present stands at a little over £275. Plans of the proposed Scout Hut have been drawn by B. S. Halliday, who is a student in the Liverpool University School of Architecture, and it is hoped in the not too far distant future the plans will be approved and building can be commenced.

Rugby Football

AT the end of our third Rugby season, we look back with pleasure upon a series of memorable games. We are at last deriving benefit from the early training of our players in the Bantam Teams, and although the winning of matches is no criterion of excellence, it would be idle to pretend that we are not pleased because we have won more than two-thirds of this term's matches.

We opened well against a heavy University IVth XV. on January 19th, and, with perhaps more than a little help from Mr. Jones and Mr. Lewis, won a hard game by 17 points to 8.

A victory by 20 points to 6 over Oldershaw, when Clarke and Black were prominent, was followed by a temporary setback when we lost to Wirral by 23 points to 5. (When we have beaten Wirral we shall feel we know something about the game, though, curiously enough, we have beaten teams which have in turn beaten Wirral).

On February 5th, we were able to show Cammell Laird's "Extra" XV. that weight is not everything, and scored 38 points to their 8. At this stage our backs were steadily improving, and we were able to beat St. Mary's College by 22 points to 11, and Wrexham by 14 points to nil. In the St. Mary's game we noticed good work by Edelsten and Pearson, and our captain scored three tries. The Wrexham game, played in a gale, was a grim struggle. Our forwards, though beaten in the set scrums, were faster than the Wrexham forwards, and quicker on the ball, and our three-quarters made good use of their chances. The experiment of playing Black at centre three-quarter proved successful, and we think that in Griffiths we have found a full-back for next year.

The game with Wallasey Grammar School proved a stiff proposition, but thanks to the stalwart work of our forwards and persistent marking by our backs we came away the winners by 17 points to 13.

The return with Oulton was also won by 21 points to 12, but Liverpool Collegiate were too good for us. A strong heavy team, they scored 15 points to our 5.

The following Wednesday, we beat Park High School by 14 points to nil, but on the Saturday, we lost to our Old Boys' 2nd XV. by 9 points to 16, after leading for three-quarters of the game. Our old boys seem to grow very rapidly once they leave school, but there is some consolation in the fact that two of our most dangerous opponents were our last term's Captain, Taylor, and our fly-half, Clare.

In the foregoing several individuals have been mentioned. Many who have not been mentioned are equally deserving of praise.

Our other teams have not fared so well. The 2nd XV. hardly exists as a team. Porter, Ridout, Hanman, and Downing left at Christmas, and there have been constant demands for substitutes for the 1st XV. In one game as many as five players were called into the senior side.

The Bantam team has suffered more than usual in meeting heavier teams, but we hope by next season to secure more uniformity in the application of the height and weight limits.

RESULTS.

1st XV.		FOR.	AGST.
Jan. 19—	Liverpool University IV.W.	17	— 8
26—	OldershawW.	20	— 6
Feb. 2—	Wirral GrammarL.	3	— 25
5—	Cammell Lairds "Extra"W.	39	— 8
9—	St. Mary's CollegeW.	22	— 11
12—	WrexhamW.	14	— 0
Mar. 5—	Wallasey GrammarW.	17	— 13
9—	Oulton High SchoolW.	21	— 12
12—	Liverpool CollegiateL.	5	— 15
16—	Park High SchoolW.	14	— 0
19—	Old BoysL.	9	— 16
23—	Rock FerryL.	10	— 27

2nd XV.

		FOR.	AGST.
Jan. 26—Oldershaw School	H.....W.	15	— 0
Feb. 2—Wirral Grammar School ...	H.....L.	0	— 28
9—St. Mary's College	A.....L.	5	— 8
12—Grove Park School	A.....L.	3	— 19
26—School Ship "Conway" ...	H.....L.	3	— 28
Mar. 2—Bootle Secondary School ...	A.....W.	21	— 9
5—Wallasey Grammar School.	A.....L.	0	— 62
9—Oulton High School	A.....D.	3	— 3
12—Liverpool Collegiate School.	A.....L.	3	— 33
16—Park High School	A.....W.	3	— 0
23—Rock Ferry High School ...	H.....W.	11	— 9

3rd XV.

		FOR.	AGST.
Jan. 26—Oldershaw School	H.....D.	6	— 6
Feb. 2—Wirral Grammar School ...	A.....L.	0	— 47
26—School Ship "Conway" ...	A.....L.	0	— 68
Mar. 2—Park High School	H.....W.	13	— 3
9—*Oulton High School	H.....L.	6	— 23
12—Liverpool Collegiate School.	A.....L.	9	— 32
16—Park High School	A.....L.	6	— 19
23—Rock Ferry High School ...	A.....L.	9	— 16

*Colts.

Bantams.

		FOR.	AGST.
Jan. 26—Oldershaw School	A.....W.	8	— 0
Feb. 2—Wirral Grammar School ...	H.....L.	6	— 20
9—St. Mary's College	A.....L.	3	— 27
26—Bootle Secondary School ...	A.....L.	0	— 19
Mar. 5—Wallasey Grammar School	A.....L.	0	— 24
9—Oulton High School	A.....L.	0	— 11
12—Liverpool Collegiate School.	H.....L.	5	— 13
16—Park High School	H.....L.	3	— 5
23—Rock Ferry High School ...	H.....D.	3	— 3

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OLD BOYS' SECTION

Notes and News

THERE have been no Association activities to report this term. Tentative enquiries made earlier in the year revealed that insufficient support would be forthcoming to guarantee a well-attended Dance, and in view of the qualified success of twelve months ago, it was thought better not to risk incurring financial loss.

* * * * *

We learn from R. E. May (1928-36) that there are at present thirty-three Old Boys at Liverpool University. Twenty of them were able to attend a reunion held on January 28th in the Men's dining room at the Union. The Headmaster presided, and in a short address suggested that a meeting of a similar nature might become an annual or even a termly event. A discussion followed, and a small committee representative of the various faculties was appointed to arrange further meetings.

* * * * *

It is clear that a university group of this size, consisting of Old Boys likely to remain in the district for three or four years at least, could be a great source of strength to the membership of the Association, and we cordially invite those who have not yet done so to join without delay.

* * * * *

MARRIAGE. Porter—Brown. On February 10th, at St. Paul's, Rock Ferry, Kenneth William Porter (-1929) to Vera Brown.

* * * * *

W. S. Wilson (1930-35) has been transferred from the Kensington to the West Derby Branch of Martin's Bank.

* * * * *

Leading Aircraftsman J. Clarke (1932-36), who is stationed at Northolt, Middlesex, paid us a visit this term. He has been for 12 months a wireless operator in the R.A.F. He has completed his airgunners' course, and is now following the fitters' course.

Old Boys' Successes

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

Geography (Preliminary Examinations): W. Kinnear.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

University of Cambridge—Economic Tripos, Part II., Class II.: R. V. Gibson; **Geographical Tripos, Part I., Class II., Division I.:** K.W.Walker; **English Tripos, Preliminary, Part I.:** C. A. Alldis.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Degree of B.Sc.: Intermediate (Economics): E. Connell; **Intermediate (Science):** H. J. Bozier.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

Faculty of Arts: Degree of B.A., School of German, Part II—Class I., Division I., R. F. Broadfoot; **Class II., Division II.,** J. Wood; **Degree of B.A. in General Studies—Third Year Examination:** D. Magee; **First Year Examination:** T. H. Heys.

Faculty of Science: Degree of Ph.D. (Chemistry): W. Bridge; **Degree of M.Sc. (Chemistry):** L. S. Clarkson; **Degree of B.Sc., with Honours, Class III.:** L. Richards; **Degree of B.Sc., Final Examination (Third Year)—Class I.:** L. Evans, L. C. Farragher; **Class II.,** T. W. Goodwin, R. Mackinder; **Final Examination (Second Year)—Class I.,** G. H. Weston; **Subsidiary Subject:** H.W.Jones; **Intermediate Examination:** R. M. Bennett.

Faculty of Commerce: Degree of B.Com. with Honours, Part II., Geography, Class II.: E. Todd.

Faculty of Education: Degree of M.A.: G. Clark; **Diploma in Education:** H. W. Jones; **Certificate in Education:** R. C. Loxam.

Faculty of Medicine: Degree of M.D.: M. H. Pappworth; **Degree of M.Ch. Orth.:** S. Pappworth; **Degree of M.B.Ch.B., Final Examination, Parts I. and II.:** J. H. D. Wetherell; **First Examination:** H. O. M. Bryant, G. A. Wetherell; **General Biology:** K. B. Thomas; **Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Final Examination (Pathology):** J. H. D. Wetherell.

Faculty of Engineering: Final Examination, Part I.: T. W. Hunt; **Intermediate Examination:** F. H. Lilley.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

M.R.C.P.: M. H. Pappworth.

PRIZES AND AWARDS.

Oliver Lodge Fellowship: V. Stanley.

Frank Stanton Carey Prize for Mathematics: G. H. Weston.

David Inglis Dawbarn Prize (Engineering): T. W. Hunt.

Liverpool Artists Prize (Painting and Sculpture): J. G. Keates.

Chartered Accountant's Examination (Intermediate): W. L. Seed.

Associate Royal Sanitary Institute: T. K. Ward.

Auctioneers and Estate Agents' Institute (A.A.I.): T. E. Snelson.

Executive Branch of Civil Service: W. C. Bray.

Old Boys' A.F.C.

WITH the 1937-38 Season drawing to a close, all our attention is focussed on the efforts of our First XI. to avoid finishing near the foot of the Zingari League table. At present, they are second from bottom, and have very stiff matches still to play against some of the leading clubs. Some improvement has recently been shown in their play. but much greater improvement is still required if many of the remaining fixtures are to be won.

The Second XI. are the only team which have shown consistent form, and they have had a very good season. They have lost only one game this year, and achieved notable victories against Collegiate Old Boys and Earle.

Both the Third and Fourth XI's. in the Old Boys' League have met with few successes, and there appears to be little hope of improvement during the present season.

The Club has been honoured by the election of the Chairman to the Committee of the Zingari League.

The Annual Hot-Pot Supper was held at the beginning of February, and proved its usual success. We were happy to entertain several representatives of the School on this occasion, whilst we were again glad to see our old friend Mr. H. A. Wilmot make a most welcome, if belated, appearance in our midst.

Our second Dance at the Kingsland Hall was as enjoyable as its predecessor, and it would appear that some of our players are proving more successful on the dance floor than on the football field.

K.M.

Old Instonians R.F.C.

IT is good to be able to report on another successful season. The 1st XV. have to date the following creditable record:

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts. For	Pts. Against
23 ...	16 ...	6 ...	1 ...	354 ...	133

In view of the fact that the standard of many of the fixtures has improved considerably since last season, this record is excellent. Generally speaking the team has played well together. Throughout last season, the 'pack' invariably formed the backbone of the 1st XV.; this year, however, the threequarters have improved greatly, and such players as D. Robey, R. C. Lowson, and R. L. M. Hill have scored many brilliant tries.

In the 2nd XV., the standard has also improved, and despite many injuries, half of the twenty matches played have ended in victory.

Following on the very successful Dance at the Kingsland Hall earlier in the season, another took place on Friday, March 18th, and was equally successful.

Prospects appear to be of the brightest; next season, complete fixture lists for three teams have been drawn up, instead of two as at present; an influx of new members is, therefore, essential, and we extend a very hearty invitation to all boys leaving school this summer, who are 'rugger' enthusiasts.

P.B.

* * * * *

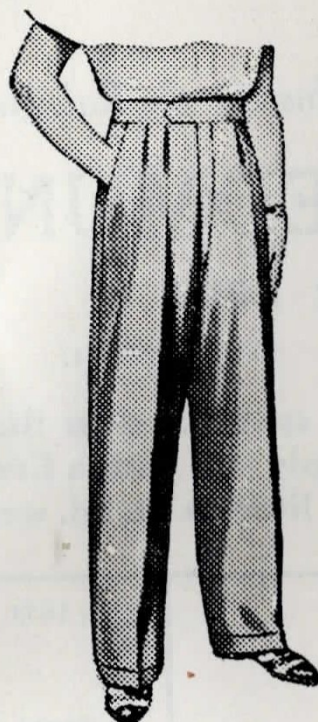
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