

David Lilcock

THE VISOR



**BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE
SCHOOL MAGAZINE.**

CHRISTMAS, 1946.

Prefects, 1946-47

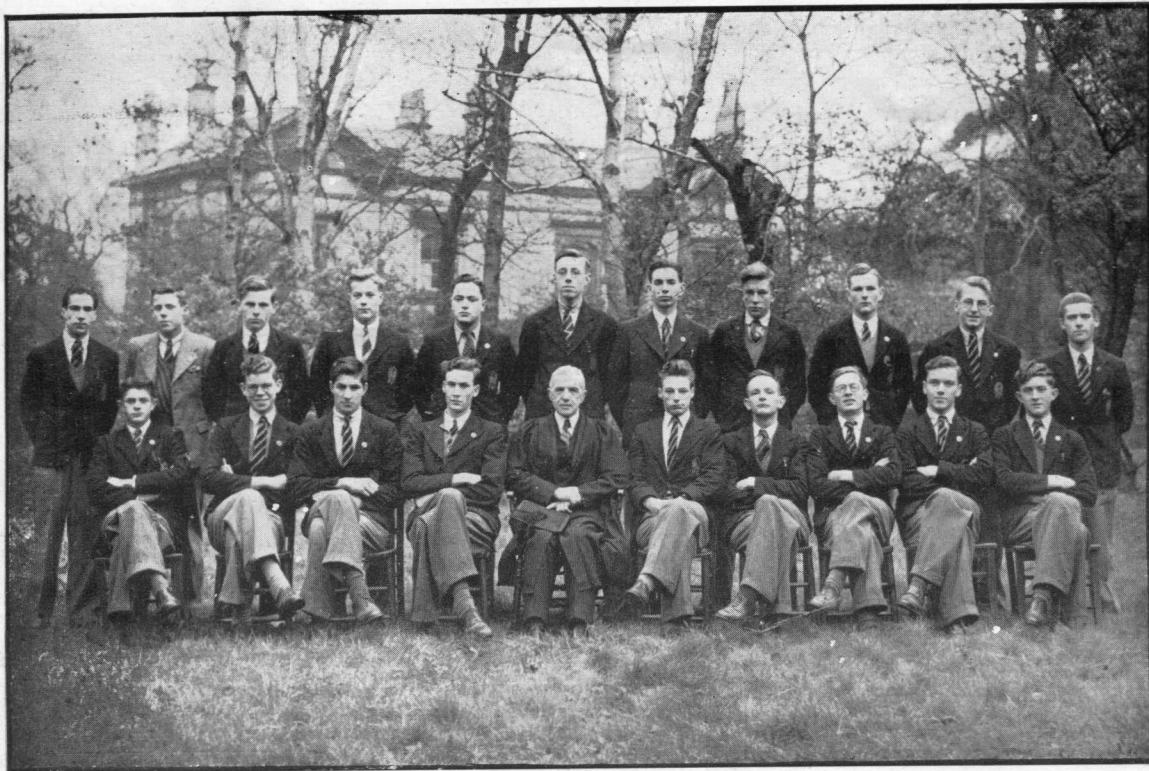


Photo by Cull.

Standing: V. A. Mealor, K. J. Horne, D. J. Silcock, R. C. Jordan, F. M. Owers, V. L. Smith, P. Dobbing, M. Smith,
C. D. Henry, A. G. Powell, J. B. Goodwin.
Seated: J. H. Stewart, R. E. P. Wright, J. H. Liggett, J. E. Morris, H. D. Thomas, W. E. Jones, J. T. Fanning,
H. A. Johnston, K. B. Finch.



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Stitt: J. E. MORRIS.

Tate: J. H. LOVATT.
Westminster: K. J. HORNE.

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Assistant Scout Master: F. TOMLINSON.

Troop Leader: R. E. P. WRIGHT.

Senior Patrol Leader: J. B. GOODWIN.

Patrol Leaders: J. M. BLACK, G. KELSALL.

School Calendar

Autumn Term begins	Monday, September 9th.
Half Term	October 30th—November 5th.
Autumn Term ends	Thursday, December 19th.
Spring Term begins	Monday, January 6th, 1947.
Half Term	February 14th-17th (inclusive).
Spring Term ends	Thursday, March 27th.
Summer Term begins	Monday, April 14th.
Half Term	May 24th—June 1st (inclusive).
Summer Term Ends	Thursday, July 24th.
Autumn Term begins	Monday, September 8th.

Editorial

THE *Visor* which chronicles the events of an Autumn Term must, we feel, contain much to commend it to the faithful subscriber. Spring and Summer have their devotees and we are not behind any of them in saluting those bright seasons as they roll along and come abreast of us each year. But the Spring Term merely carries on or finally winds up the noble activities begun in the Autumn. Again, the Summer tends to turn our thoughts outwards from the School, and its last weeks cast ominous shadows on us all. But give us the Autumn Term when life is at the full, from the novel excitement of its early hours to its last wintry afternoons when the stentorian assurance "Let nothing you dismay" sums up the whole. During these weeks we see "no enemy but winter and rough weather." It is an adventure to come in through frost, wind or rain, to sit in brightly lit rooms besieged by the glowering sky and angry elements and to depart again in the gathering winter twilight like campaigners whose drums cannot be silenced nor colours taken. There is

so much going on, a sense of snug security and of good cheer. At the outset, some of us are flushed with recent academic triumphs. We are all engaged on new tasks with many new associates, and speculation is in the air about new masters, prefects, or the season's teams. We ourselves grapple competently with new studies which were mythical terrors last year. The old friendly round of chess, debates, scientific gatherings, and play rehearsals returns, and in the background is the comfortable assurance that the Joint Board is hibernating and that we are jogging easily downhill to the delights of Christmas. Old Sir Roger was right when he said how fortunately it turns out that these pleasures come in the winter when nature conspires to magnify the happiness of light and warmth and comradeship. Taking it all in all, we would not readily surrender our autumn or winter nor fail to tell of them in this and other *Visors*. And it is in the hope that our readers shall get a picture of these last months in our pages and relish the retrospect that we once more come before them in our latest number.

Salvete

CHRISTMAS TERM.

Henharen, D. B. (re-admission).

CHRISTMAS TERM.

Plimley, A. (re-admission); Evans, F. G. M.; Anson, J. L.; Blake, W.; Boden, A.; Boulter, A. K.; Bradshaw, A. E.; Brammall, A.; Carroll, E.; Chalinor, W. H.; Clarke, E. B.; Clays, A.; Clegg, A. E.; Cookson, G. F.; Davies, B.; Ellis, J. M.; Evans, D.; Evans, G. M.; Francis, T.; Gaffikin, R. J.; Garner, A. D.; Glover, R. W.; Goat, P.; Gowling, A. J. R.; Griffiths, R. V.; Harris, P. G.; Haynes, G. H. L.; Hebden, T.; Hesketh, K.; Hughes, J. T.; Jones, N. N.; Jordan, J. E.; Kelly, L. A.; Kendrick, D. R.; Lee, C.; Lunt, R.; McAteer, E. F.; McGrath, W. A.; Marston, M.; Mountfield, A. R.; Mowll, A. C.; Hayns, R. H.; Parkinson, A.; Parry, K.; Pealin, T. W.; Rankin, C. R.; Roberts, W. B.; Russell, J. E.; Smith, H.; Stokes, D.; Taylor, A.; Taylor E.; Tilston, P. I.; Tunna, H. J.; Watt, E. C.; Weir, W. C.; Whitehead, J. E.; Williams, J. S.; Wood, F.; Wright, J. S.; Wylie, F. C.; Edwards, J. H.; Davies, G. E.

Valete

SUMMER TERM.

Kenny, T. A.; Taylor, P. R. H.; Griffiths, S. C.; Hughes, K. T.; Sprigings, P. W. H.; Williams, A. D.; Whalley, P. G.

Vls.: Baker, J.; Dade, J.; Davenport, J. N.; Dickson, J. L.; Harbord, D.; Hughes, D. A.; Jones, D. S. W.; Jones, E. W.; Leeming, G. H.; Lively, J. J.; McNab, G. S.; Melling, D. A.; Roberts, F.; Seymour, J. H.; Stephenson, L. E.; Young, R. S.; Hughes, R. E.

Vla.: Barzey, E. W.; Cattrell, E. J.; Davies, E. J.; Griffiths, H. S.; Hough, E.; King, T. G.; Skinner, W.; Smith, J. G.; Steele, R. A.; Teague, H. W. C. B.; Watt, A. W.; Young, W.

Vlb.: Alsop, J. W. P. B.; Begley, G. G.; Buckney, G. H.; Cann, L. W.; Chambers, P.; Connolly, D.; Evans, R. M.; Gordon, R. A.; Hartley, M. J.; Hughes, J. J.; Jackson, R.; Jones, A. C.; Jones, A. M.; Langley, G. C.; Leech, R. J.; Leeman, J. E.; Stalker, P. B.; Walmsley, J.; Wood, R. M.

R.S.: Munro, R.

R.A.: Houghton, S.; Jones, C. M.; White, M. A.

R.B.: Birch, H.; Ibbotson, D.; Jackson, G. A.; Palmer, B. L.; Roberts, C. J.; Thomas, S. R.; Veitch, R.

Va.: Beckley, L.; James, M. H.

Vb.: Fixter, A.; Pearson, J. M.

IVs.: Gardner, J. F.; Young, E. F.

IVa.: Duchars, K.

IIIb.: Stephens, A. E.

CHRISTMAS TERM.

Advanced: Burls, D. R.; Podmore, J. H.; Young, J. W. L.; Hughes, R. E.; Albiston, J. H.

Vla.: Smith, R. B.

Vlb.: Laurie, K. J.; Bolshaw, J. F.; Clegg, V. E.; Clarke, V. G.

Remove A.: Williams, E. H.; Catterell, K. J.

Vb.: Hessler, P. T.

Staff Changes

ONCE more we have to record several changes on the Staff. At the end of the Summer Term we announced the departure of Messrs. Lewis and Bolton but the *Visor* had gone to press before we knew that we were also to lose Mr. Fox. He had been at the Institute since 1938 and therefore accompanied the School on its (by now almost legendary) evacuation to Oswestry. We wish Mr. Fox every success in Sheffield, his native heath.

The withdrawal of Mr. Davies brings about yet another change in the Art Room. We take this opportunity to wish Mr. and Mrs. Davies good fortune on their removal to Khartoum, a far cry indeed from the Mersey to the Nile.

At the same time we extend a hearty welcome to the new members of the Staff, Messrs. Gill, Richards and Thynne, who joined us at the beginning of the term. To Miss Price no less, who succeeded Mr. Davies shortly before half-term, we offer greetings and hope her reign will not be a brief one.

Swimming Gala

THE School swimming gala was held at Byrne Avenue Baths, on Friday evening, the 20th September, for the first time since the war. The baths were filled to capacity by a large enthusiastic crowd of spectators who thoroughly enjoyed the keenly contested events. The School's thanks are due to Mr. Clare, our energetic P.T. instructor, who organised the

gala, and also to the other masters who helped in recording and timing the events.

W. E. Clare, the famous Northern Counties' Record Holder, and an Old Boy of the School, gave an excellent display, which was ably explained in a running commentary by Mr. D. Wiseman, coach to Birkenhead Swimming Club.

Hearty congratulations are due to J. H. Liggett of Atkin, who swam exceptionally well to gain 10 points for his House and the Senior Championship medal for himself. Horne of Westminster was a close runner-up with 9 points. In the Junior Championship, Tate won both places. Thompson, an excellent swimmer, was first with 9 points, whilst Shimmin with 8 points was second. In the House Championship, Westminster repeated former triumphs when they amassed 38 points, a comfortable win from the other Houses, the closest of whom was Tate with 24 points.

Two events attracted particular attention. Of these the Newcomers' Race was won by Rankin of Westminster, who shows considerable promise as a swimmer. In the Old Boys' Race Ellis swam a fine race to win by a touch from Waring, who was closely followed by Roscoe.

After the events Alderman C. J. Yates presented the prizes and congratulated the School on reviving this function, which revealed such excellent swimming and keenness among the competitors, and which showed the personal interest of the Staff in the welfare of the boys. Councillor John Furness, Chairman of the Governors, proposed a vote of thanks to Alderman Yates.

SWIMMING GALA, 1946.

Senior Handicap: 1st, McLeod; 2nd, Sedman.

Senior Championship: 1st, J. H. Liggett, 77 $1/10$ "; 2nd, Horne; 3rd, G. Yates.

Junior Championship: 1st, Thompson. 36 $1/5$ "; 2nd, Hodgson; 3rd, Shimmin.

Newcomers' Race: 1st, Rankin; 2nd, Wood; 3rd, Mowll.

Under 14 (Handicap): 1st, Morris; 2nd, Thompson; 3rd, Williams.

Under 13 (Handicap): 1st, Holmes; 2nd, Smith; 3rd, Penny; Bordley.

Junior Plunge. 1st, Shimmin; 2nd, Morris; 3rd, Wollaston.

Senior Plunge: 1st, Horne; 2nd, J. H. Liggett; 3rd, Jones.

Junior Dive: 1st, Crowe; 2nd, Acton; 3rd, Evans.

Senior Dive: 1st, Baker; 2nd, Roberts; 3rd, Horne.

Senior Obstacle: 1st, Jones; 2nd, Yates; 3rd, McLeod.

Junior Obstacle: 1st, Thompson; 2nd, Shimmin; 3rd, Roberts.

Senior Back Stroke: 1st, Baker, 18 $3/5$ "; 2nd, Liggett; 3rd, Horne.

Junior Back Stroke: 1st, Thompson; 2nd, May; 3rd, Hodgson.

Senior Breast Stroke: 1st, Liggett, 40 $4/5$ "; 2nd, Horne; 3rd, Jones,

D. S. W.

Junior Breast Stroke: 1st, Shimmin; 2nd, Thompson; 3rd, Jones.

Senior Lighted Taper: 1st, Waring.

Junior Lighted Taper: 1st, Moss.

Old Boys' Race: 1st, Ellis; 2nd, Waring; 3rd, Roscoe.

Junior House Squad: 1st, Tate; 2nd, Westminster; 3rd, Atkin.

Senior House Squad: 1st, Westminster; 2nd, Atkin; 3rd, Tate.

House Championship: 1st, Westminster, 38 pts.; 2nd, Tate, 24 pts.; 3rd, Atkin, 18 pts; 4th, Stitt, 5 pts.

Senior Championship: 1st, Liggett (Atkin), 10 pts.; 2nd, Horne (Westminster), 9 pts.

Junior Championship: 1st, Thompson (Tate), 9 ps.; 2nd, Shimmin (Tate), 8 pts.

Higher School Certificate Examination, 1946

THE following are to be congratulated on having passed the examination, while special mention must be made of the fact that D. R. Burls and W. E. Jones gained Distinction in Chemistry:—

D. R. Burls, J. T. Fanning, K. J. Horne, W. E. Jones, J. H. Lovatt, J. E. Morris, H. D. Thomas, J. W. L. Young.

The following were granted Letters of Success in the Subsidiary Higher School Certificate Examination:—

P. Dobbing, K. B. Finch, C. D. Henry, H. A. Johnston, J. H. Liggett, F. N. Owers, M. Smith, J. H. Stewart, P. G. Whalley, R. E. P. Wright.

School Certificate Examination, 1946

CONGRATULATIONS are due to the following for their success:—

J. H. Albiston, J. W. Alsop, J. Baker, E. W. Barzey, G. G. Begley, G. R. Bennett, T. P. Bolam, A. R. Boynton, M. T. Caddick, J. Dade, J. N. Davenport, J. S. Davies, J. L. Dickson, R. M. Evans, T. H. Gill, J. B. Goodwin, R. A. Gordon, K. O. Gore, J. D. Gray, D. Harbord, J. C. Holden, D. A. Hughes, R. E. Hughes, W. F. Hurst, D. O. Jones, D. S. W. Jones, E. W. Jones, R. N. Jones, R. C. Jordan, G. H. Leeming, I. S. Macdonald, J. F. Mandy, V. A. Mealar, J. Moorhouse, R. G. Palmer, K. R. Percy, M. B. Perry, I. H. Podmore, A. G. Powell, F. Roberts, J. H. Seymour, D. J. Silcock, W. Skinner, J. W. Smith, V. L. Smith, P. B. Stalker, L. E. Stephenson, H. N. Taylor, H. W. C. B. Teague, A. W. Watt, B. A. Weir, R. F. Wilde, J. D. Wright, R. S. Young, W. Young.

ADDITIONS TO THE Roll of Honour 1939-1945.

H. C. DENT.

W. R. HARDIE.

R. HENSHAW.

J. H. WILLIAMS.

G. E. MALLEY.

W. H. POOLE.

P. E. ROLLINS.



NOT to be outdone by other departments of state which continue to multiply the number of dignified individuals at the top, we have this term what is probably the largest Advanced Course on record. These gentlemen, as a glance at our excellent examination results of last summer will confirm, are a learned pack. In serried ranks they fraternise with complex formulae, pulverise Shakespeare, ransack the Romance Languages and debunk the accepted historians. We wish them well! Did we hear someone propose the establishment of Young People's Colleges? Stuff! We have one already.

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A School Choir has been formed and meets regularly under the leadership of Mr. Bailey. We hope in later numbers to recount the activities and extol the triumphs of this new, or might one say, revived society.

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One of the last vestiges of World War II. disappeared on Friday, November 8th, when the blast wall at the yard entrance was demolished. Much interest was aroused when a hammer-bearing Titan mounted this structure and turned it into a ruin. Among the sporting, odds were laid on the probability of the hammerer being himself engulfed in its final collapse while the reminiscent speculated on the probable amount of shelter it would have afforded against a 'near hit.' Other "working parties" (if the President of the Board of Trade will allow the use of his lyrical phrase) have also been occupied in cleaning the windows (when they looked in on us and mutual grimaces were exchanged) and repairing the pipes for which a cold winter's day was obviously a happily chosen occasion.

* * * * *

The 'Milk for All' scheme has worked very smoothly in the School, thanks to the watching brief held by Mr. Clare. We await the next move on the part of the various Ministries with an almost blasé composure, virtuously imbibing our vitamins through nationalised straws.

* * * * *

Another change we have to record is the especial use of a class room in the former Junior School building for Geography. A properly equipped Geography room has long been a crying need and we hope the day is

not far distant when the subject will be given the accommodation and equipment which it deserves. Meanwhile much practical experience of trek and safari is afforded by the journey to its new encampment.

* * * *

Among forgotten geniuses of the late Victorian period who deserve rescue from oblivion, was the worthy who designed our Hollybank Road gate. Looking forward half a century, he estimated to a hair's breadth the overall width of the former Black Maria which now brings our dinners and anon returns for the empties. It is a thrilling pastime to watch this affair getting out into the road, a daily lunch-interval miracle which provides distinct opportunities for the sportsman.

* * * *

The following mathematical teaser may interest some of our readers :—

$$3s + 3a + 3b = x.$$

Prove that $3s + 3a$ is also equal to x .

(At the time of going to press we understand that a satisfactory solution to these equations has been claimed in certain quarters. We however remain sceptical.—ED).

* * * *

The scheme to re-equip the old lecture room between the Labs. as an Advanced Physics Laboratory nears completion. The new equipment looks impressive and we hope that the Upper Sixth will not only find a congenial and established headquarters there after months of exile but also pursue researches that will leave Thomson, Rutherford and Co. among the also rans.

* * * *

We beg to acknowledge with sincere thanks the gift of books to the School Library by Mrs. Forshaw in memory of M. D. Forshaw and by Mrs. Barker in memory of J. and D. Barker. These Old Boys, who died in the World War, worked in their generation in our Sixth Form, and we greatly value these tokens of their time here. In addition, the following Old Boys have made most generous gifts of books to the Library :— G. A. Foxcroft, G. E. Foxcroft, F. G. Hughes, L. T. Malcolm, D. A. N. Osborne, K. A. Osborn, F. G. Peers, K. I. Smith, J. F. Sudworth, and R. Yates; and we wish to assure them that these are deeply appreciated. May we commend these gestures to those whose time at the Institute is drawing to a close in the hope that they may become a tradition?

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Our new pattern football jerseys were worn for the first time by the 1st and 2nd XV's. in the matches against Park High School on November 20th. The jerseys are black with gold-coloured collars in which the teams looked both resplendent and formidable. As might be expected this magnificence led to two comfortable victories.

Presentation of the Freedom of the Borough

THIS ceremony was held in the Assembly Room at the Town Hall on Thursday, 17th September, and the first thing one noticed on entering the crowded hall was the table which held a silver casket on either side of which rested the illuminated scrolls which were to be presented to the honorary freemen.

Shortly before three o'clock there was a hush as distinguished guests made their way on the platform. They included the two local Members of Parliament (Sir Frank Soskice, K.C., M.P., and Mr. Percy Collick), Lord Leverhulme, Alderman Luke Hogan (Lord Mayor of Liverpool), and Aldermen Ernest Shennan and Sir Sydney Jones. A few minutes later the Mayor's attendant entered with the mace and announced the Mayor, whereupon all those present rose. His Worship was followed by the Town Clerk, The Rt. Hon. Henry Graham White, P.C., Alderman G. Prentice, J.P., and Alderman Charles McVey, J.P., the last three being those upon whom the Freedom of the Borough was to be conferred. Finally those entered who were to support the proposal that these men should be made freemen.

When everybody was settled, the Mayor rose, and asked the Town Clerk to read the resolution passed by the Council on June 5th, 1946, which said that the aforementioned gentlemen were to be made freemen of the Borough. Following this, His Worship the Mayor made a short speech introducing the Rt. Hon. Graham White, and he was supported by Councillor Furness and Alderman Naylor. Next, Mr. White was asked to sign the roll, and it was also signed by the Mayor, Councillor Furness, and Alderman Naylor, who acted as witnesses. Mr. White replied thanking the Town for conferring the honour upon him.

The same procedure followed for Alderman Prentice (the Mayor being supported, in this case, by Alderman Baker and Councillor Guy Williams and for Alderman McVey (Councillor Hugh Platt and W. E. Power supporting the Mayor). To conclude the proceedings, the Mayor stated that the Scrolls would be on view to the guests as they left.

K.O.G.

Sidelights on Old Tranmere

TWO documents enable us to picture a little more clearly conditions in Tranmere during the pre-residential period. One is a broadside believed to come within the years 1780-1820, the other the Tranmere Town Book, a manuscript volume now housed in the Central Reference Library, Birkenhead.

The broadside gives a "full and particular account of the awful visitation of the Devil and five of his Monsters, which appeared to a party of Young Women foolishly and wickedly calling upon them to appear in the form of their intended Bridegrooms at Tranmere, on All Hallow Eve."

It goes on to describe how Sarah Moseley and Ann Lewis, living at

service in the house of Mr. Harris, in Tranmere, invited several of their acquaintances to their master's house to spend the evening. After their master and mistress had retired, the servants were left to enjoy themselves for as long as they thought proper, and finally they decided to try a scheme by means of which they hoped to see the faces of their intended lovers. They accordingly began by laying out a table with food on it and placed five chairs round it (there being five of them in company); then they read the Lord's Prayer backward; after which they hoped in the name of his Satanic Majesty that their intended bridegrooms would come and seat themselves at the table. The wish was no sooner uttered than it was complied with. The doors flew open, and in an instant five ghastly looking gentlemen were seated round the table.

The young women's fright was now heightened to a considerable degree at the sight of so awful a set of beings. These sat for little more than half-an-hour, and when they arose they made their "obedience" and disappeared as they came. Sarah Moseley was so much frightened that she died the following morning, and (when the account was published) small hope was entertained for the recovery of the others.

The broadside, in recording this horrible example, stated that for many years previously fatal accidents had occurred through this trend of devil-raising. Whether or not it was confined to Tranmere was not stated.

The Town Book is the official account book of the Constable, Surveyor, and Poor Law Overseers of Tranmere which covers the period from June 6th, 1783, to August 20th, 1827, a time when there seems to have been a good deal of local poverty.

Payments in cash and kind were made both to local poor and also to those who passed through the township. Tranmere, by this time, was more than a rustic community; it was part of a highway connecting Liverpool with Chester, and various entries of payments to "vagrants" to "sailors castaway" and to "soldiers with a pass" bear witness to the fact. The accounts were considered at an annual meeting held near Easter at the house of one of the "inhabitants" and were approved by some form such as "These accounts examined and allowed by us the inhabitants met at the house of James Sarrett" (1793). Sometimes, however, some item of expenditure was questioned:—

We except Trendall's bill (1786).

The following query is submitted for the consideration (1791).

Wrong cast up (1820).

The book gives us an index of prices of which the following (year 1808) may be quoted:—

New pair shoes	5s. 6d.
To new jackets	9s. 0d.
To new pair stockings	1s. 6d.
To check shirt	5s. 0d.
To flannel shirt	4s. 6d.

To worsted cap 1s. 6d.

To knife, combe and soap 1s. 6d.

Coal averaged about 10/- per ton throughout the period under review, but tended to rise. A peck of potatoes in 1784 cost 4d., and a loaf two shillings. The journeys of the overseers form a recurring item of expenditure, heavy by modern standards. In 1816 for example it cost 2/- to journey to Neston, 4/- to Backford, 1/- to Bebington, 2/- to Greasby, 3/- to West Kirby, and 3/- to Grange. But, as we should expect, the increasing efficiency of transport tended to reduce the cost of travel as time went on. Thus the cost of a journey to Liverpool is listed at 2/6 in 1815, but at 2/- in 1816, while that of a journey to Chester fell from 7/10 in 1784 to 7/6 in 1815, and from 5/- in 1816 to 4/- in 1821. Charges for the delivery of letters are noted. Thus in 1825 to 1827 these were:—from Warrington 7d., from Stockport, Upholland, and Bradford 9d., and from Skerton 10d. A letter from Chester cost 3d., and one from the House of Commons 7d.

The poor could be 'placed' with a master to learn a trade, and we find this happening in 1811 to good effect, the apprentice in question apparently becoming, three years later, a blacksmith on his own account. But local poverty did not always admit of such a happy solution. In 1792 it was 'particularly requested that the overseers should look out for a plan' for one Peter Filkin. 1817 there was passed a resolution "to enter the troublesome poor into a workhouse." A house of industry is mentioned in 1786, when the rent was £11 8s. 6d. in arrears, and at various times the rent of Hinderton workhouse or poorhouse is given at £2 2s. 0d. per annum.

We have a hint in 1792 of a local bye-law which may have been occasioned by a recent enclosure: "The Town agrees to prosecute all person cutting any Edge, Fence, Trees or damaging any Fence and In power the Overseers to offer a reward of Five shillings and to prosecute the same and If the Officer neglects an Information shall forfeit 5/-."

Expenditure on the upkeep of roads, though insignificant by present day standards, is noted frequently.

1783. To Thos. Hughes, 2 days, cutting Rock £0 2 4

1817. To pavement in Town Lane 4 15 0

To forming the Church Lane 29 7 0

1819. To John Roberts for cutting the road from Holt Hill to Hinderton 2 1 0

1823. Peter Almond and Saml. Peers cutting stones in Mount Lane and spreading gravel in Well Lane 1 0 0

The village pinfold, formerly situated in Greenway Road between Prenton Road East and the Water Tower, is mentioned occasionally.

1786. To irons and changing Fould gate £0 2 0

1816. Paid Richard Harrison for irons to the pinfold gate 0 1 6

1827. To John Rodgers for Pinfold Gate ... 0 1 0

The two public wells of the township, the 'town' well in Well Lane (of which photographs exist) and Hinderton Well, whose exact site in Lower Tranmere is not known, gave a good deal of trouble, particularly the latter.

1786. Teighing and Cleaning Town Well ... £0 2 0

1787. Foighing Town Well ... 0 2 0

1788. To fughing Town Well ... 0 2 0

1803. To cleaning Tranmere Well ... 0 1 0

1792. Repairing pump ... 0 1 6

Cleaning Hinderton Well ... 0 1 0

1794. Faying Hinderton Well ... 0 2 0

1820. To Deepening and repairing the weell in

Inderton Lane ... 4 10 3

To 12 loads of Stone for Inderton well and

cartage ... 1 4 6

To cash paid Blaylock for altering the well ... 0 14 8

To 3 loads of stone for do. and cartage 0 6 0

To 12-lb. of lead for letting in the Cramps for

Coping for Inderton Well ... 0 2 0

Among the rather curious items of expenditure may be listed—

1783. To ale concerning drowned man ... £0 5 0

1798. 2 Thraves of Bottles of Stroay and drawing it

into bottles ... 0 6 0

1798. 6 Nengrels ... 0 1 0

1801. To 4 Hongreffs ... 0 1 4

1811. To sparrows and eggs at sundry times ... 3 4 2

Sparrows are frequently mentioned, and it is evident that they gave a good deal of trouble. So also did moles, and, amateurish attempts at dealing with them having failed, the overseers in 1816 decided to employ professional help.

They did so in these terms: Know All Men by these Presence That we the undersigned being the Principal Inhabitants of the Township of Tranmore in the County of Chester for an in behalf of ourselves and the rest of the Inhabitants of the Township of Tranmore aforesaid Are held and firmly Bound unto Richard Knagg of Garstang in the County of Lancaster Mole Catcher in the sum of Five Pounds Five Shillings of good and Lawfull Money of Great Britain yearly and every year during the term of Twenty One years coming from the Twentieth Eight day of October in the year of our Lord one Thusand Eight Hundred and Sixteen to be Lawfully Compleat and Ended to be paid by one yearly Payment to begin and to be made on the First day of May One Thousand Eight hundred And seventeen Upon Condition that the said Richard Knagg his heirs Executors Administrators And Assigns shall and will well and truly to the best of his and their Endeavour to take catch and Destroy all and Every Mole he and they can within the Township of Tranmore aforesaid

at proper seasons in the year year by year During the said Term of Twenty one Years And upon condition also that after the first day of May in the Year of our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventeen the said Richard Knagg his heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns shall spread and throw abroad all and Every Mole hill within the Township of Tranmore aforesaid and if at any time within the said term he the said Richard Knagg shall Neglect to take Kill or destroy all and every Mole that he can and sprade the Mole hills according to the conditions above written then he the said Richard Knagg his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns shall and will forfeit and Pay unto the said Township of Tranmore the sum of Fifteen Pounds and if the said Township of Tranmore for the Time being Shall at any time during the said Term be Behinde with the yearly Payment for the space of one Month next after the same shall become due the same having been Demanded in writing from the Officer of the said Township of Tranmore shall and will forfeit and pay unto the said Richard Knagg the sum of Fifteen pounds but in case all the Obligations in this Agreement be fully Performed then the same to be void to all Intents and Purposes or else to remain in full force and virtue of the Law.

In witness whereof we the Inhabitants of the Township of Tranmore and the said Richard Knagg have hereunto set our hands this 20 Day of October, 1816.

RICHARD KNAGG

JOHN SIDLEY.

It seems very much a case of making a mountain out of a mole-hill. Whether the full term of 21 years was completed cannot be stated, but a payment of £5 5s. od. was made "to the mole catcher" each year between 1817 and 1827.

J.E.A.

A Match Won and Lost

[Played against Birkenhead School at Home, October 2nd, 1946.]

THE game was starting, the whistle blew,

The ball was off, the forwards flew.

Right from the start you had to know

That the opponents were a deadly foe.

We too were good and played a game

That made the others look quite tame.

Came half-time and with our skill

We'd made the score eleven—nil.

The second half gained us no glory,

Indeed, it told a different story;

Our stamina gone, we fought no more

Their threes broke through, they changed the score,

The final whistle, we went to tea,

We'd lost eleven—twenty-three.

F.M.O.

The Dee Marshes

THE biting chill of Winter's frosty air
Is in the stinging breezes from the sea,
Mixed with the smell of Neptune's briny lair
And borne across these dreary wastes of Dee.
Here, where once the ocean king did reign
Supreme, where once the storm blown foam did fly,
Are weeds and sea-plants, wide-spread plains
Of sucking ooze, o'er which the curlews cry.
On through this marsh the ancient river flows,
Meand'ring slowly, surely, to the sea
And leaving in its wake this fertile ooze,
Which hath so changed its own destiny.
For once, as those deserted quays do tell,
Protruding starkly from this dismal plain,
Here graceful vessels oft were wont to sail
And ply their trades, in spices, silks or wine.
O Dee, if thou couldst speak, what wouldst thou tell
Of days when prosperous merchants of renown
Did sail their tall ships on thy gentle swell,
And dwelt in luxury in yonder town?
But Fortune's wheel hath turned 'gainst thee apace,
No more success doth rest here as of yore,
And now remains this cold and desert place
Where once the sailor hailed his native shore. J.H.S.

A Trip on a Destroyer

IT was eight o'clock in the morning when we arrived on the quay side, walking up the gangway we noted the bustle of preparation on the deck; then making our way to the Ward Room met the hospitable Chief Engineer, who offered us coffee. His kingdom below being our first objective, we then went down to the Engine Room and scarcely reached the control platform when the telegraph rang at 'Ready.' Immediately two artificers sprang to the massive turbine controls and acknowledged the warning on the near-by bell push. Obedient to further orders from the bridge, the ship first went slowly astern and then moved as slowly ahead into the river. We had the interesting experience of watching the repair of the fresh water pump by the Electrical Artificer in the boiler room, where the heat was intense. By this time our vessel was rolling and pitching, preparing us for the grand sight, when we regained the deck, of racing grey waves. We were almost out of the channel now. The last buoy and the Bar Light ship were approached and passed. At full speed ahead we at last felt the full fury of the open sea. The exercise

we were to witness was the testing of the Radar beam; so we next visited the Radar Control room to inspect the device which indicates possible targets or land on the graduated scan or cathode-ray tube. This visual evidence is transmitted automatically to the gun turrets. By this time we had made our rendezvous and dropped anchor to await the aircraft whose function was to test the effectiveness of the Radar beam and the quickness with which the gun director apparatus could follow a fast-moving target.

On the conclusion of the exercise, the anchor was weighed and the ship turned for the homeward trip against the wind, whose full force we were now to experience. Our smoke turned black and oily with immediate unfortunate effects on the hitherto spick and span blue-grey paint work. An hour's run brought us home again. The lined-up crew meant that our trip was all but completed. A final visit to the Captain in his cabin enabled us to thank him for a fascinating and unusual trip, and bidding him 'Good Night' we made our way ashore. H.R.H.

University Letters

The Editor,

The Visor.

Dear Sir,

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,

HULL.

19th October, 1946.

As the only two representatives of the School at Hull we felt that we ought to write to you to tell you something of our life here.

This is our second year at Hull, and we are finding it vastly different from the first year. Then we were living in a Hall of Residence which was on a par with a first-class hotel. This year, however, owing to a great increase in the number of students, we have been moved to a former army camp, where conditions are, to say the least, primitive; for, while last year we had centrally-heated single study-bedrooms, we are now having to live communally in Nissen Huts, heated by coke stoves, and with no hot water laid on.

We are able to bear with these conditions, however, because we feel that we are helping to change Hull from a little-known University College to one of equal status with the other provincial universities. Every University has had to experience this period of difficulty, and it is just our misfortune to be here at this time.

In spite of these conditions we are able to work hard and play hard. The College staff are people with the highest qualifications, and there is adequate provision for sports. Our sports teams this year are better than they have ever been before, and we are hoping to see them do well in the various U.A.U. tournaments.

We send our best wishes to the School for a successful year, and should anyone be thinking of coming to Hull we should be very pleased to welcome him.

Yours sincerely,

R. BRYMNER.

P. A. HOSKER.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE.

November 27th, 1946.

To the Editor of the *Visor*.

Dear Sir,

In view of the request for a University Letter I find myself groping into the dim and distant past, to the time when I was last confronted with this polite but insistent demand. Alas, I am reminded not so much of water flowing under the bridge as of the accumulation of academic rust which I am now struggling to dispel. Service life undoubtedly broadens the mind, but the bearing of this upon the pressing problems of Tripos Exams. is not too easily discernible. Unfortunately, even the acquisition of some familiarity with "low" German in the latter part of one's service career gives little help in the study of the German classics.

As one's demob. date recedes into the past, and the Tripos Exam. looms up in its place as the ultimate goal of all endeavour, one's mind clears enough to note various changes in the University itself. Not that the academic organisation is different; that is an organism which changes not in decades but in centuries, and one need have little fear of a changed syllabus on resuming after the lapse of years. Superficially, though, much is new. Married students abound, and the Sunday afternoon "pram parade" along the "Backs" is now a regular feature of the Cambridge scene. A more sober tone prevails in general, as befits students labouring under the title of "ex-servicemen," with its inevitable association of a constant struggle against a hostile fate. Such outbursts of youthful buoyancy as occur seem prompted by a desire to keep up the traditions, rather than by any real enthusiasm. November 5th passed off particularly quietly, though a small number managed to summon up enough youthful spirits to let off a few fireworks on Market Hill.

The political complexion of the university is probably more solidly "leftish" than ever before, though extremists do not seem so noticeable as in the early war years. The "Union" is said to have lost its Conservative flavour, though a motion deploring further nationalisation, opposed by Mr. Herbert Morrison, was carried by a narrow margin.

Many gownless students can now be seen at night, such luxury articles as gowns no longer being manufactured. This presents little real difficulty for the proctors, as it would be ludicrous to assume that any one could fail to distinguish a student from a normal citizen, gown or no gown, but, with a disciplinary thoroughness reminiscent of the services, a register is kept of all those without.

Defence measures relating to "locking outer doors at 10 o'clock, and fastening windows with locking devices approved by the Syndicate" are still enforced in lodging houses, and one again finds oneself standing sheepishly on the front door-step at five past ten, waiting for the landlady to open up and inscribe one's name on the record of late entries. An amusing outcome of post-war conditions is that a married student living

in "digs" with his wife finds that she is responsible for these vital statistics.

With this sidelight on post-war Cambridge, I should like to close, hoping that the Institute is also settling down to peace-time, if that is the right word for the aftermath conditions of to-day.

Yours sincerely,

G. S. SMITH.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

November, 1946.

To the Editor of the *Visor*.

Dear Sir,

This letter is being written towards the end of a term which has been marked by a brave and successful attempt to return to peacetime University routine.

Naturally the return to the University of so many ex-servicemen has raised the average age of the students; but they have brought back with them invaluable experience and the pre-war traditions of University life. This is all the more important owing to the fact that University life during the war years was vastly different from that before the war—or so I am told—and I must confess that I favour the pre-war mode of living.

The spirit of the University is being revived; more people watch the Inter-Varsity matches; sing-songs are more numerous; Panto Day is being started again; and there are numerous other instances of this revival. Do not, however, infer from this that work has been forgotten. Satisfactory progress has to be maintained if one desires to stay up.

But this new zest in the social side of University life is a good thing, since it is the correct proportion of the scholastic and the social which constitutes, at any rate in my opinion, a University education.

To the casual observer the University buildings are the same as always, but the bombed portion of the engineering building has been rebuilt, the roof of the Medical School has been retiled, and numerous buildings are being painted. There are still a few places, however, where rust, darkness, and learning are synonymous terms, but of course, even though we are not nationalised yet, bureaucracy still holds sway.

There are a good few Old Boys up at the University now, and I have so far met McCullen, Badcock, Howell, and Clare, all of whom are resuming their studies. It brings home to one the tragic realities of the war when one realises that these people have had to forfeit six years of their lives.

Of those who came up straight from School, Owen is studying for an Honours Chemistry degree, and Burls has started on an Engineering course.

Naturally there are plenty of opportunities for reminiscing, and many are the tales that could be told, but as those concerned are still with us we will let "Bygones be Bygones" and end on a note of silence.

I am, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

B. WARE.

Advanced Form Notes

MUCH has happened since this feature last appeared in the magazine. Shovehalfpenny has gone through many phases of development, many scientific booby traps have been invented in that section of the form interested in such subjects, and boys have come and gone, until a fellow who was in IIIa. when war broke out, and the magazine was discontinued, is now writing in fear and trembling the first report for about seven years. The Editor seems to foster a fond hope that the aforementioned fellow will remember how the job should be done. I hope he will not be disappointed.

There are more prefects this year than the Headmaster can remember, twenty-one Advanced form members having been elected. It may interest the School to know that on one occasion a prefect was elected from the Lower Sixth, so that you will see that it is not just because one is in the Advanced that one is given such an honourable position.

A pistol shot in the chemi-lab last summer caused one of the senior prefects to rush precipitantly out of the room to the rescue of the unknown victim. He came back crestfallen, and said it was a certain master cleaning the pistol for the sports! This kind of thing, combined with the numerous dark doings of certain scientists of an explosive temperament, makes life a very precarious possession for the Literary gents next door in the Library. J.H.S.

Chess Club

THE Chess Club started its meetings this year on the 13th September, many enthusiasts turning up. During the first meeting Mr. Allan was reinstated as Chairman and J. B. Goodwin elected Secretary in place of K. J. Horne who had resigned.

Meetings are held on Wednesday and Friday evenings in the physics laboratory under the watchful eyes of Mr. Allan and Mr. Thynne, the latter of whom gave us this last half-term holiday a very interesting talk on "Chess Openings."

During the last few weeks a Knock Out Competition has been in progress, the semi-finalists being Smith, Fayle, Macdonald, and James. From the result of this competition it will be interesting to see who will be Chess Champion this year.

This year, for the first time since before the war, we entered a team in the Merseyside Schools Competition for the Wright Shield. We have had some very stiff opposition to face and have done very well, considering that most of our opponents have been playing throughout the war. It is our sincere hope that next year the shield will return to the B.I. where it belongs.

In a match for the Wright Shield played against Liverpool College on November 21st, the School won by 4 games to 3, the team being composed of Horne, Morris, Goodwin from the Advanced; Smith, MacDonald (VIa), James (VIb) and Fayle (Rem.S). J.B.G.

Dramatic Society

THE society has been very active this term, being keenly supported by the senior members of the School. It is intended that the meetings shall be open to junior forms in the near future.

Parties of senior boys have been visiting Liverpool theatres quite frequently during the term, mainly to see Shakespearian productions.

Meanwhile the society has been quietly busy rehearsing the play "Laburnum Grove," which it is to present at the Y.M.C.A. theatre on the 20th and 21st December. The play will probably have been produced by the time this edition of the *Visor* is published. Let us hope that we shall still be able to hold our heads high; for, although we are no longer "Torch-Bearers" by name, we are still "Torch-Bearers" by nature. F.M.O.

A Modern Fairy Tale

ONCE upon a time there was a small number of animals living together in a remote corner of England. They were all very much the usual types of creature: their demeanour varying from day to day, at times very quiet and peaceful, at others very noisy and restless. Most times they would work extremely hard, but sometimes the craving for rest prevailed.

Their various tasks covered a wide range, but perhaps the favourite pastime was the erection of one of the modern "prefabs." This latter task seemed to necessitate a great deal of skill and certainly required a large number of extremely lengthy periods of very careful planning. This particular job, however, being of such very great importance, was reserved for those with the highest level of intelligence—the rest of the animals only being allowed to do the hard work.

After the day's work was over the hours of leisure were devoted to pastimes as curious as the creatures themselves. These seemed mainly to consist of either organised free fights with a rugby ball or unorganised free fights without the rugby ball. The two leading lights of the former sport seemed to be a very curious bespectacled creature who bore the

colours of the Soviet Republics and an equally mysterious individual in a peaked cap who looked as if he might at one time have been to Singapore. Another member of the herd to be respected was a certain down and out musician who appeared to speak in a foreign tongue and who was liable to burst forth into song without the slightest warning. But perhaps the greatest favourite was the animal known as the white horse.

When the end of the wet season arrived and the herd had to break up, each member to go his separate way, a feeling of sorrow seemed to sweep over the homestead. Yet, when that season returns, it will probably see once more the migration of a small part of the B.I. to their second home.

In the meantime may it be resolved that the badge of this year's farming camp be a gigantic mushroom bursting apart the golden bars of a Canadian birdcage, and may this opportunity be taken to express grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn for putting up with us for yet another year and for doing so much to make the venture a success.

Rugby Results

Opponents.	Home or Away				Result.		Score.	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Hawarden Grammar School	H.	A.	W.	L.	26-	6	6-11	
Birkenhead School	H.	A.	L.	L.	11-24		0-21	
Rock Ferry School	A.	H.	W.	W.	3-	0	9-3	
Grove Park, Wrexham	H.	A.	W.	W.	32-	0	16-3	
Wirral Grammar School	H.	A.	W.	W.	34-	8	16-6	
Oldershaw	H.	A.	W.	W.	31-	5	1-5	
St. Mary's, Crosby	A.	H.	L.	W.	13-15		9-6	
Ruthin	A.	—	L.	—	3-16		—	
Birkenhead School	A.	H.	L.	L.	5-14		6-15	
Wrexham	A.	H.	W.	W.	17-	6	34-6	

Opponents.	Home or Away				Result.		Score.	
	3rd	Bant.	3rd	Bant.	3rd	Bant.	3rd	Bant.
Birkenhead School	A.	H.	L.	L.	15-40		0-25	
Wirral Grammar School	—	H.	—	L.	—		0-5	
Grove Park, Wrexham	—	H.	—	W.	—		9-6	
St. Mary's, Crosby	A.	H.	L.	L.	5-33		0-43	
Birkenhead School	H.	A.	L.	L.	32-	6	0-9	

Scout Notes

THE first item of news in "Scout Notes" this issue is a very welcome one. Mr. D. Coughtrie and Mr. F. Tomlinson, our S.M. and A.S.M. respectively, have returned from H.M. Forces and are now helping the troop to regain some of its pre-war efficiency and reputation. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them back and in giving them our full support at our meetings.

In the Inter-Troop Sports held at Solly Recreation Ground this year, the troop gained second place. The School troop scored 26 points and the 54th, 29 points. The troop's congratulations must go to C. J. Roberts and W. Lloyd for their outstanding performances. The results were as follows:—

JUNIOR RACES.

100 yards (under 14): 1st, W. Lloyd; 3rd, M. Turner.

220 yards (under 14): 1st, W. Lloyd; 3rd, R. Parry.

Cricket Ball (under 14): 1st, W. Lloyd; 3rd, L. Hessler.

100 yards (under 16): 1st, J. B. Goodwin.

220 yards (under 16): 2nd, J. B. Goodwin.

SENIOR RACES.

100 yards: 1st, C. J. Roberts; 3rd, J. Black. Time 12 $\frac{1}{5}$ secs.

220 yards: 1st, C. J. Roberts; 3rd, J. Black. Time 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ secs.

440 yards: 1st, C. J. Roberts; 2nd, R. E. P. Wright. Time 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ secs.

880 yards: 1st, C. J. Roberts; 2nd, R. E. P. Wright. Time 2 mins. 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ secs.

Cricket Ball: 1st, C. J. Roberts; 2nd, J. Black; 3rd, R. E. P. Wright.

TUG-OF-WAR.

Team: Wright, Black, Roberts, Hessler, Lloyd, Jeffers, Fixter, Goodwin. Position, 2nd.

JUNIOR RELAY.

Team: 100 yards: Jeffers; 220 yards: Lloyd; 440 yards: Parry; 100 yards: Turner. Position, 2nd.

SENIOR RELAY.

Team: 100 yards: C. J. Roberts; 220 yards: J. Black; 440 yards: R. E. P. Wright; 100 yards: J. B. Goodwin. Position, 1st.

The Senior Relay team returned the amazing time of 1 minute 52 $\frac{1}{2}$ secs. Every member is to be heartily congratulated on this fine performance.

It will be noticed that every Senior event was won by the Troop. The points for these were unfortunately not counted in the final summing up. After the races the S.M. in charge of the Sports (Mr. J. Duddlestone) complimented the 23rd on their fine performances, especially in the senior events, and thanked them for their invaluable help in preparing the shed and ground for the sports.

The troop camp at Conway was cancelled this year owing to travelling difficulties and Bread Rationing. To compensate the troop for this, weekend camps were held at Overchurch where we enjoyed perfect weather, and at Landican where we didn't enjoy the weather. The camp at Overchurch was attended by 11 members, who passed a long weekend there. Many amusing incidents enlivened the Overchurch camp, and two notorious members of the troop received new nick-names. The Landican camp was attended by three hardy(?) youths who slept in the open without tent and lived in the most primitive way imaginable. The

weather was bad, but the camp was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Week-end hikes were also held during the summer holidays.

The troop football team enjoyed an afternoon at Leasowe recently when they played the Margaret Beavan Hospital Troop and afterwards stayed to a camp-fire and sing-song. The School troop won by six goals to five but were beaten in the return match a fortnight later.

I would like to thank the Leasowe Scouts and Nurses on behalf of the troop for their hospitality and a very enjoyable afternoon.

This term the troop has carried on its varied activities in the gym and would welcome any recruits at our meetings.

R. E. P. WRIGHT, T.L.

Scientific Society

THE first meeting was held on Tuesday, 15th October, to elect the officers. Since then a meeting has been held every week. The second meeting was divided between J. Gleave and T. George. J. Gleave of Va., so far our youngest lecturer, gave us an excellent lecture on "Birds and their Habits." This was followed by a lecture which included demonstrations on "Induced Electricity" by T. George of Rem A. The third meeting was entirely devoted to a lecture by G. A. Massey of Rem. S. entitled "How to build a house telephone." The demonstration of a set of telephones considerably added to the interest of the meeting. A Brains Trust, arranged by G. R. Bennett of the Advanced was held at the fourth meeting. It gave a good account of itself, and, incidentally, the questions submitted were of good quality. "The Ignition System of a Model Aeroplane Engine" was dealt with by P. Dobbing of the Advanced at the fifth meeting, after which many intelligent questions were asked. Mr. Edge at the sixth meeting gave a lecture on "Insects," and the specimens he brought attracted considerable attention.

Even though it started late, the Society can congratulate itself on a very successful season.

J.D.W.

Sixth Form Literary and Debating Society

SIX meetings, including two committee meetings, have been held this term up to the time of going to press. Attendance at the first meeting was disappointing, but has now returned to normal. Debates have been lively and interesting, and an inter-House quiz contest aroused much interest, keen competition among the Houses making a very enjoyable evening.

It is proposed to hold, some time during the Spring term, a mock trial, which should prove of great interest to the School.

There is ample room for a larger attendance, and the society extends a hearty invitation to the senior boys. It is hoped that the reader, if he is of the required seniority, will accept this invitation personally.

J.H.S.

Table Tennis Club

THE club started very well this season with a distressing number of would-be members attending the first meeting. Even the fact that subscriptions of one shilling were to be paid did not deter those hardy schoolboys, and so a cash down principle had to be adopted. Never in the history of the School has a secretary collected his subscriptions so quickly.

The club is divided into three sections, each section meeting on a particular day of the week—either Monday, Wednesday or Thursday. The skill acquired during these bouts is to be put to the test next term, when a knock-out competition is to be held to decide the most proficient player.

P.D.

Old Boys' Association

THE Old Boys of the School are very happy to be back again in old surroundings, but at the same time will always remember those who did not return.

The Association appreciates very much the way in which the Headmaster and Mr. A. O. Jones assisted it in the necessary re-organisation, and thanks them for their keen interest.

The dance held recently by the Old Boys at the Town Hall was both a social and a financial success, and it is hoped that the social committee will continue their good work to the benefit of the School and the Old Boys.

Full membership of the Association is open to all who have had a clear twelve months' life after schooldays, the subscription being 10/6 per annum (inclusive of all sports), but during the first year after leaving school the subscription is only 2/6. Schoolboys may join and become associate members without any subscription. All these forms of membership can be obtained only by application. Write to the General Secretary: H. G. Foster, 3 Boundary Road, Bidston, Birkenhead, for an application form.

The Association trusts that these low subscriptions, and the fact that it is hoped to make a great success of this organisation, will encourage more Old Boys and schoolboys to join. Members should be on the look out for announcements of forth-coming social activities. In the new year it is hoped that a few indoor sports may be commenced. The Dramatic Society wish it known that they will be commencing in earnest very shortly now.

The Association wishes all its members and the School a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year,

H.G.F.

News of Old Boys

SOME boys who showed great promise whilst playing for the School are now developing into excellent footballers with other teams.

Lt. J. T. Bartlett, ex-captain of the School 1st XV., played for and captained the University of Liverpool 1st XV. After this he was honoured by being picked for the Combined Universities XV. which he captained. He now plays for Waterloo and has gained his cap for Cheshire. He recently played for the Western Command 1st XV.

Huntriss plays regularly for his squadron in the R.A.F., and whenever he can get leave plays for our local rugby club, Birkenhead Park. After his first game for Birkenhead Park, in which he scored three spectacular tries, he was given a trial for the Cheshire team.

B. E. Ware, an outstanding forward and captain when at School, plays for the 1st XV. of Liverpool University.

A. J. Mandy, one of the best scrum halves the School has ever had, now plays in that position for Metro Vick 1st XV. and has often been noticed for his excellent work.

F. G. Peers is to be congratulated on the unusual distinction of appearing for St. John's, Cambridge, in both Rugby and Soccer (known as "Cuppers") teams. The two sides proved champions in both competitions.

J. F. Sudworth, who has appeared for the Old Instonians this year, plays regularly for Glasgow University 1st XV.

P. Hosker plays in the 1st XV. of the University of Hull.

Old Boys of the School are doing well in other respects in the world of sport. Geraint Williams recently represented Cardiff University College at the White City in the English Universities Sports. In his event he ran magnificently to break the record of the 10 miles cross-country of the University of Wales.

B. E. Ware represented Liverpool University in the Varsity Athletic Sports. He ran well, judging his pace to perfection, and succeeded in winning the 400 yards Hurdles, and, easily outstripping all opposition, the 400 yards flat sprint.

In the realm of swimming W. E. Clare, B.Sc., who won the School Swimming Championship in 1938, broke the Christie Shield record and represented the English Universities at the Inter-Students Gala at Monte Carlo. He is now recognised as the best all-round swimmer in the North of England. He won both the Cheshire 200 yard Breast Stroke Championship, and the Northern Counties 200 yards Breast Stroke Championship in record time, and in the National Championships was placed second in the 200 yards Breast Stroke race. He broke the two records by $1\frac{3}{5}$ seconds, in both cases beating previous holders of the title.

The following Old Boys are at present at the Universities :—

G. S. Smith is studying Modern Languages at St. John's College, Cambridge.

J. Gallagher, B.A. (Cantab), at Trinity College, Cambridge, is researching in Colonial History.

Irfon Roberts, after serving during the war with the R.W.F. is now at Magdalen College, Oxford, reading History.

B. E. Ware is in the Engineering School at Liverpool University.

I. S. Melbourne, having returned from the Royal Artillery is completing his studies in Architecture at Liverpool University.

J. M. Owen and G. G. Badcock are both in the Honours School of Chemistry at Liverpool University.

A. H. Jenks on demobilisation from the Navy has entered the School of Economics at Liverpool, where R. H. Howell has resumed his legal studies.

A. J. Seavell is back at the University doing research in Chemistry.

H. N. Laver after foreign service has started his degree course at the London School of Economics.

Lt. J. F. Sudworth has gone to Glasgow University to read for his degree in Political Economy.

P. Harris is at Cardiff University taking his degrees in Mining Engineering.

W. E. Liversage is back from the R.A.F. studying Applied Science at Bangor University.

R. Brymner and P. Hosker are studying Science and Arts respectively at Hull University.

Geraint Williams is studying for an Arts degree at Cardiff University College.

Lt.-Comdr G. Clarke, B.A., late of the Royal Navy, has been appointed Assistant Registrar of University College, London.

Lt.-Col. G. Jellicoe, M.A. (Oxon), is the Vice-Principal of the South Lancs. Emergency Training College.

J. W. Bryden, B.A. (Cantab), has been appointed an entomologist under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Birkenhead Institute Old Boys' A.F.C.

AFTER a lapse of seven years, the "Soccer" club resumed playing activities this season.

Although considerable difficulty with regard to playing accommodation was experienced, the use of a ground was finally obtained at the Anti-Aircraft Battery site in Holm Lane; a pitch, incidentally, which was used by the School many years ago.

Several of the pre-war Committee and players rallied round, and it was decided to enter teams in the First Division of the Liverpool I Zingari League and the Zingari Combination, thereby ensuring regular league

football for members. Two enthusiastic meetings were held, and S. E. Anderson and R. A. G. King were elected Club Captain and Vice-Captain respectively.

As was anticipated, both elevens have taken time to settle down, and very few wins have been recorded. Many enjoyable games have, however, been played, and much friendly rivalry of pre-war days has been revived.

Old Instonians R.U.F.C.

THE Club was formed in 1935 by a handful of enthusiasts who felt that the Old Boys' Association should be represented in local Rugger circles as well as in Soccer. There were many difficulties, for the original members had been brought up on soccer at School, and at times it was impossible to field a full fifteen. Defeats were heavy during that first season of away games, but the club began to attract Old Boys who were members of other clubs. Bidston and Y.M.C.A., both now defunct as Rugby clubs, yielded such players as G. G. Wilson, N. E. Hosker, D. K. Page, and the late Alan Moss and Dennis Ashton. Alan Moss died leading a rush on the Beach of St. Nazaire, and Dennis Ashton was one of the gallant hurricane pilots who died tackling heavy odds in the air above Malta. Such men brought their courage, weight, and experience to the club at a time when it was sorely needed. Two of those founder-members are still playing: D. Rigby, the first team hooker, and T. K. Ward, the second team full-back.

The Club ran three teams in the season 1938-39 and was meeting the best Junior Rugby Clubs in the district. All fixtures were cancelled with the outbreak of war and Old Instonians were to be found in every theatre of operations. Many made the supreme sacrifice, and others, by reason of war injuries or advancing years, were relegated to the touch-line. It was a sadly depleted club which met in the early part of this year to draw up its future plan of campaign. Mr. A. O. Jones, whose staunch support through the years has earned the gratitude of all members, was re-elected to the chair. Hallin-Winter was elected Captain, and no club could wish for an abler or keener captain. Already the first fifteen has become a force. There has been only one defeat, and the last eight consecutive games have been won.

The second team, with a constantly changing membership, has not been as successful, winning four and losing four. It has a promising look about it now, and high hopes are entertained for its future. Fixtures are being made for three teams next season and new members will be welcomed. The usual kit difficulty is being experienced and any black and gold hooped jerseys not at present in use would be welcomed.

Hon. Secretaries of the various Old Boys' societies and clubs are requested to send to the Editor any material for the *Visor* as soon as possible after half-term.