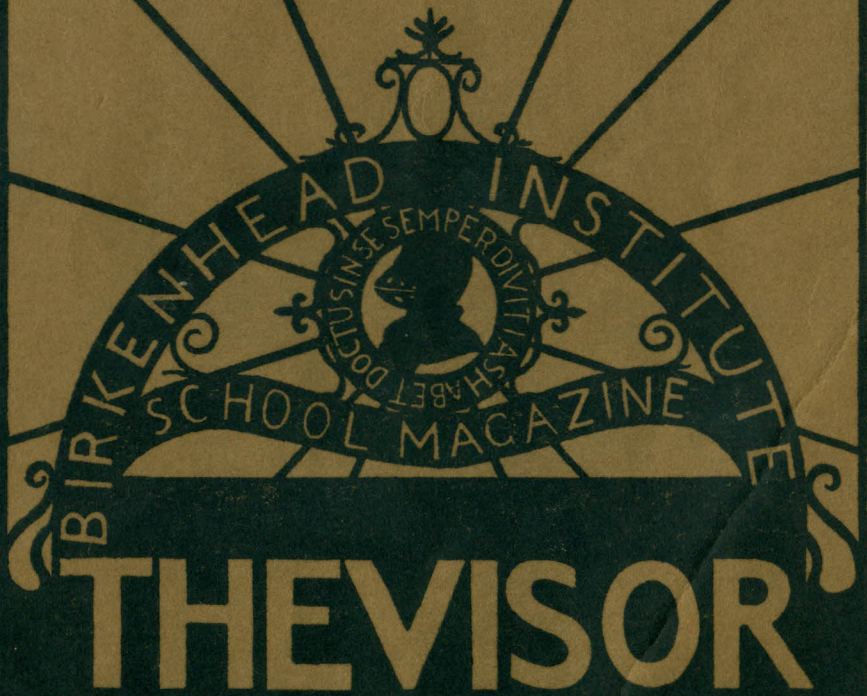


*Delcocks.*  
6A.

SUMMER

1946

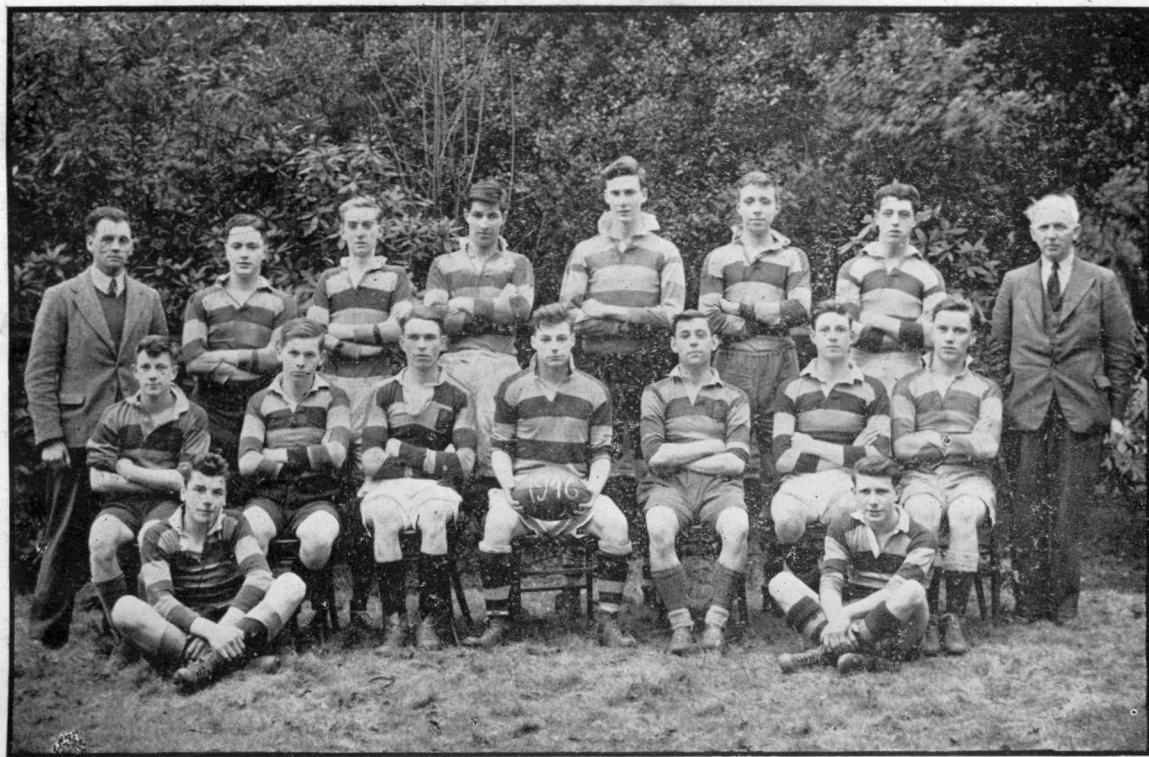


## Staff, April, 1946.



(Back Row): R. P. Bolton, E. C. Townsend, R. Hall, F. J. Lake, J. E. Allison, N. Bailey, L. Fox,  
 (Middle Row): W. E. Williams, A. R. Thacker, E. Sorby, J. G. Allan, L. T. Malcolm, Miss Cojeen, Miss Allan, A. D. Lewis.  
 (Front Row): Mrs. Davies, A. O. Jones, G. W. Harris, E. Wynne Hughes (Headmaster), F. Bloor, J. Paris, Mrs. Curtis,

1st XV., 1945-46.



Mr. Lewis, F. M. Owers, J. H. Lovatt, J. H. Liggett, J. E. Morris, V. L. Smith, C. J. Roberts, Mr. Paris.  
I. H. Podomore, D. D. J. Silcock, J. W. L. Young, H. D. Thomas (Capt.), E. W. Jones, G. M. Dickson, H. A. Johnston.  
A. A. Smith. F. Bird.



## School Calendar

Spring Term ended .....	Thursday, April 11th.
Summer Term began .....	Monday, April 29th.
Half-Term .....	June 8th—16th (inclusive).
Summer Term ends .....	Thursday, July 25th.
Autumn Term begins .....	Monday, September 9th.

## Editorial

LOOKING out from our staff-room window which commands an extensive view over Merseyside—of its kind a noble prospect and one we would be reluctant to exchange for any vista afforded by the proudest of our new secondary schools—looking out, we say, some bright splash of colour catch the eye nowadays. Seven years ago they would have been taken for granted. To-day, these smoke-stack colours, the insignia of world-famous ships whose home is here, Holt, Harrison, Clan, Cunard, and the rest, are eloquent. They speak of a long struggle victoriously concluded. They are mute witness that some at least of the customs and habits of the pre-war years are gradually being restored. In School here, too, such is our first care at the moment, and this number of the *Visor* will tell how far we have regained the status quo. Masters have returned from the forces, Old Boys who visit us are no longer martial, the Dramatic Society has had a most successful season; such are a few portents of normality. But it is obvious in our community, as in the greater world without, that a mere return to the past is not possible even were it desirable. It is a new age in which we live, whether we like it or not. Birkenhead itself has an ambitious plan of reconstruction, and we are glad to give an account of this in our pages; for the Institute has a closer link with it than is generally known. Our lives in school await transformation by Butler's Education Act. Though some fear that dissonances of a modern idiom in this new symphony may fall harshly on the academic ear trained to the mellower harmonies of the old grammar school, a tempo has been banished from the score for weal or woe. The problem and "the challenge of our time" alike lie in the contending claims of the tried best in the old world and the sanest devices on the blue prints of the new. We must not be "defenders of abuses," but it is our duty to suspect rash innovation, lest we damage or destroy our heritage. As we write, the news comes that our old friend the School certificate is doomed; but the oracles are by no means clear what they intend to substitute for it. Aesop warned us that wise foxes do not cut off their tails in order to create "parity of esteem" with their tailless brethren.

## Salvete

SPRING TERM.

Apter, J. D.; Evans, W. B.; Fayle, A.; Fenton, D.; Richardson, J. K.

SUMMER TERM.

Gee, D. J.; Grantham, K. N.; Meggs, A. G. W.



## *Valete*

### AUTUMN TERM.

Bird, F. H.; Edwards, F. R.; Maddock, K.; Pulman, M. B.; Redfern, A. E.; Rice, M. G.; Roberts, P. R.

### SPRING TERM.

Bush, D. F.; Camden, R.; Edwards, H. A.; Fisher, W. J.; Instone, V. C.; Jones, D. G.; Roscoe, P.; Staughton, A.; Vaughan, A.; Williams, D. M. H.

### SUMMER TERM.

Bird, F.; Richardson, J. K.; Whitworth, M. J.

## *Speech Day 1946*

THE School, for the first time since 1943, held its usual Speech Day, the first post-war occasion, on the 14th March, 1946, at the Town Hall. The proceedings began with a song by the School. Then Councillor John Furness, the Chairman of the Board of Governors and Chairman of the meeting, gave an address to the School and to the numerous parents and friends who had gathered, in which he commended the successes of both the School and the Old Boys. He drew attention to the fact that education was by no means free, since it must cost the country more money than ever.

The School choir followed, and sang two famous songs to the pleasure of the assembly. The Headmaster then gave his report on the work of the School, and expressed himself as being well satisfied with its progress. He also said that in the many changes now coming in education the Institute should be allowed to retain its traditions. A pleasing interlude was provided by the singing of A. W. T. Hudson.

Dr. Mountford, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool, gave the principal address of the evening. After complimenting the School on its past tradition and urging the necessity of maintaining established traditions, he emphasized the need of teaching a pride in the English language and the importance of avoiding the use of slang. He introduced his remarks on good English and the heritage England possesses in its literature by reference to the poetic works of Wilfréd Owen, an Old Boy of the Institute, who was killed in the war of 1914-18. Dr. Mountford also strongly advocated that the present system of the Institute having its own Board of Governors with their personal interest in the School should be preserved.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Alderman Yates and seconded by Councillor Power. The function closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

### JOINT MATRICULATION BOARD CERTIFICATES, JULY 1945.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE—Brymnier, R., Physics, Chemistry, Pure Mathematics (s), Applied Mathematics (s); Burls, D. R., Pure Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Applied Mathematics (s); Harris, P. J.,

Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry; Hosker, P. A., English, History, Geography, French; Jones, W. E., Pure Mathematics (s), Physics, Chemistry, Applied Mathematics (s); Osborne, D. N. A., Physics, Chemistry, Pure Mathematics (s), Applied Mathematics (s); Pringle, E. W., English, History, Geography, French (s); Young, J. W. L., Pure Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Applied Mathematics (s).

(s)—Subsidiary Standard.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATES—Black, J. M.; Burton, R. E.; Byrne, T.; Cadwalader, R.; Capon, A. S.; Clare, G.; Clark, R. F.; Dobbing, P.; Duckworth, J.; Eden, P.; Evans, N. J.; Finch, K. B.; Graves, J. L.; Green, T.; Haspell, F.; Henry, C. D.; Johnston, H. A.; Jones, J. D.; Jones, W. F.; Leverett, E.; Liggett, J. H.; Lumley, G. E.; McDonnell, R.; McLaughlin, K.; Maddock, K.; Owers, F. M.; Plimley, A.; Richardson, J. K.; Riley, L. F.; Short, D. D.; Sharp, R. D.; Simons, G. A.; Smith, M.; Stewart, J. H.; Thompson, C. R.; Tracy, W. O.; Whalley, P. G.; Wilkinson, J. J.; Wright, P.; Wright, R. E. P.

#### INTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

DUKE OF WESTMINSTER—Butts, D. R.; Fanning, J. T.; Jones, W. E.; Morris, J. E.; Thomas, H. D.; Young, J. W. L.  
ATKIN—Horne, K. J.; Whalley, P. G.

#### OLD BOYS' SUCCESSES.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE—*Natural Science Tripos, Part 1*—Bryden, J. W. (*Class II.*); Foxcroft, G. E. (*Class II.*); Hatris, R. G. (*Class III.*); Malcolm, L. T. (*Class III.*); Thomas, G. A. (*Class III.*).

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL—

FACULTY OF SCIENCE—Byrne, A. (*Inter. B.Sc.*); Hughes, R. J. (*Inter. B.Sc.*); Owen, J. (*Part I. B.Sc.*).

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING—*Degree of B.Eng.*—Bartlett, J. T. (*Class II.*); Ware, B. E. (*Part I.*).

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER—

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING—*Degree of B.Eng.*—Hughes, F. G.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD—

FACULTY OF MEDICINE—Davidson, R. (*1st M.B.*).

#### SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS.

Brooks, H. R., State Bursary in Engineering (Manchester); Brymner, R., Teacher's Training Grant (Hull); Byrne, A., Teacher's Training Grant (Liverpool); Harris, P. J., Boyd Open Scholarship in Engineering (Liverpool), State Bursary in Engineering (Cardiff); Hosker, P. A., Teacher's Training Grant (Hull); Larsen, A. R., County Borough Scholarship (Liverpool); McFarland, J., State Bursary in Aeronautical Engineering (Southampton); Malcolm, L. T., State Bursary, Downing College, Cambridge; Owen, J. M., Teacher's Training Grant (Liverpool); Peers, F. G., State

Scholarship, St. John's College, Cambridge; Smith, G. L., Teacher's Training Grant (Liverpool); Smith, K. I., Teacher's Training Grant (Liverpool); Ware, B. E., The Stitt School Leaving Exhibition (Liverpool).

#### PRIZE LIST.

FORM II.—(1) Williams, D. M. H.; (2) Moore, D. H.; (3) Ratcliffe, C. J.

FORM IIIA—(1) Crowe, J. R.; (2) Coen, W. B.; (3) Cowle, L., Leeming, F.

FORM IIIB—(1) Stokes, G., (2) Young, E. F., (3) Evans, H. K.

FORM IIIJ—(1) McKay, J., (2) Molyneux, B. H. P., (3) Mitchell, E. E. L.

FORM IVA—(1) Ledsome, J. R., (2) McDonald, R. F., (3) Baker, J. W.,  
Smith, A. A.

FORM IVJ—(1) Elliot, J. H., (2) Thomas, L., (3) Millar, T. G.

FORM IVB—Roberts, K. J.

FORM VA—(1) Turner, H. M., (2) Howard, R. H., (3) Maxwell, D. J.,  
Sherry, L. R.

FORM VB—(1) Rixon, A., (2) Kearney, J. W., (3) Staughton, A.

FORM REM. J.—(1) Jones, D. O., (2) Young, R. S., (3) Leeming, G. H.,  
Mealor, V. A.

FORM REM. A—(1) Wilde, R. F., (2) Boynton, A. R., (3) Percy, K. R.,  
Gray, J. D.

FORM VIs—(1) Whalley, P. G., (2) Finch, K. B., (3) Johnston, H. A.

FORM VIA—(1) Leverett, E., (2) Stewart, J. H., (3) Liggett, J. H.

FORM U VI.—Thomas, H. D. (*History and French*).

Morris, J. E. (*Geography*), Lovatt, J. H. (*Chemistry*).

Fanning, J. T. (*Mathematics*). Horne, K. J. (*Physics*).

#### SPECIAL PRIZES.

SOLLY MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR HISTORY—Pringle, E. W.

CONNACHER MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR ENGLISH—Hosker, P. A.

THE GEORGE HOLT PRIZES—MATHEMATICS—Harris, P. J.

PHYSICS—Osborne, D. N. A.

CHEMISTRY—Jones, W. E.

THE FORSHAW MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR ART—Binyon, R., and Dobbing, P.  
HEADMASTER'S PRIZE—Harris, P. J.

#### SPORTS.

COLOUR CAPS (*Football*)—Bassett, J., 1945; Jones, E. W., 1945; Pringle,  
J. E., 1944; Binyon, R., 1944; Lamb, R. H., 1944; Thomas, H. D.,  
1944; Hosker, P. A., 1944; Pollard, G. M., 1944; Young, J. W. L.,  
1945.

VICTOR LUDORUM—(*Senior*) Pollard, G. M.; (*Junior*) Dickson, G. M.

SILVER CUP FOR GAMES—(*Senior*) Lamb, R. H.; (*Junior*) Podmore, I. H.

HOUSE TROPHIES—*Athletics*—Westminster; *Cricket*—Tate;

*Football*—Tie—Westminster and Atkin.

CORONATION CUP—Westminster.

#### SERVICE HONOURS AND DECORATIONS.

(Additional).

Rev. Tudor Hughes ..... O.B.E. (Military).



## Athletic Sports 1946

FOR the first time in twenty-four years the weather proved unsuitable for holding the Annual Athletic Sports on the pre-arranged date, Saturday, June 1st. A persistent and heavy rain necessitated their postponement to Thursday, June 6th, which date turned out fine, but with a stiff breeze which proved detrimental to the runners.

The function was graced by the presence of His Worship, the Mayor of Birkenhead, Mr. Halligan; the Mayoress, his wife; and the deputy-chairman of governors, Mr. William Jackson. The Mayoress distributed the various awards, including the first series of prizes since pre-war days. Here we may take the opportunity of thanking those members of the staff who arranged the purchase and preparation of these much coveted awards. The following is the list of successful competitors:—

LONG JUMP (Open)—(1) H. Thomas, (2) H. M. Turner, (3) G.M.Dickson.

LONG JUMP Under 14—(1) W.H.Lloyd, (2) B.Johnston, (3) J.G.Williams.

HIGH JUMP (Open)—(1) H. M. Turner, (2) J.W.L.Young, (3) J.H.Liggett.

HIGH JUMP (Under 14)—(1) W. M. Lloyd, (2) A. Fayle, (3) J. R. Crowe.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL (OPEN)—(1) C. J. Roberts, (2) J.H.Liggett,  
(3) J. W. L. Young.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL (Under 14)—(1) R. Shimmin, (2) W. H. Lloyd, (3) B. Johnston.

100 YARDS (Open)—(1) H. Thomas, (2) I. H. Podmore, (3) C. J. Roberts.

100 YARDS (Under 12)—(1) D. Muldoon, (2) F. C. Elliott, (3) R. B. Owen.

100 YARDS (Under 13)—(1) R. A. Dawson, (2) K. Gornall, (3) D. Turner.

100 YARDS (Under 14)—(1) W.H.Lloyd, (2) R.M.Lloyd, (3) J.R.Rollins.

100 YARDS (Under 15)—(1) G.M.Dickson, (2) A.A.Smith, (3) G.A.Hipkin.

220 YARDS HANDICAP (Under 13)—(1) R. A. Dawson, (2) C. K. Classon,  
(3) K. Smith.

220 YARDS HANDICAP (Under 15)—(1) W. H. Lloyd, (2) G. M. Dickson,  
(3) A. A. Smith.

220 YARDS HANDICAP (Over 15)—(1) H. M. Turner, (2) J. B. Goodwin,  
(3) I. McPherson.

220 YARDS (Open)—(1) C. J. Roberts, (2) H. Thomas, (3) J. W. L. Young.

440 YARDS HANDICAP—(1) T. C. Forster, (2) R. M. Lloyd, (3) D. Turner.

440 YARDS (Open)—(1) C. J. Roberts, (2) H. Thomas.

80 YARDS SACK RACE (Under 14)—(1) P. J. M. Barry, (2) D. Muldoon,  
(3) G. Hughes.

80 YARDS SACK RACE (Over 14)—(1) A. Rixon, (2) G. H. Wollaston,  
(3) K. J. Horne.

880 YARDS HANDICAP—(1) G. M. Dickson, (2) W. H. Morton, (3) R. M. Lloyd.

THREE-LEGGED HANDICAP (Under 14)—(1) J. Finch, J. Kitching, (2) F. Kenworthy, G. M. Dodd, (3) M. T. Mitchell, D. Lee.

## Staff Notes

WE were very sorry indeed to hear of Mr. Edge's serious illness which made an operation and a long stay in hospital necessary. The School send him all good wishes for a speedy recovery.

Once more, we have many changes to record. The return of Mr. Lewis and of Mr. Clare in the Spring Term gave us all great pleasure. Mr. Lewis's reappearance, unfortunately, is only for a brief period. We wish him every success at Beaumaris Grammar School to which he has been appointed from September next. When we broke up for the Easter holidays, we said goodbye with great regret to Mr. Morris, who had been Senior Modern Languages Master here since 1931, and who is now at Wigan Grammar School. We extend a cordial welcome to his successor, Mr. Webb, who joined the staff on June 1st. Miss Allan took over some of the teaching of languages during this interval. The Art Department has had yet another change of leadership in the withdrawal of Mrs. Davies (Miss Rosenbloom) but we welcome Mr. Davies, who began duty on May 1st. We shall be sorry to lose Mr. Bolton, who has been appointed to Brassey Street Secondary School, where no doubt he will continue to solve the most excruciating cross-word puzzles. The School is to suffer yet another loss in the resignation of Mrs. Curtis—known more familiarly to hundreds of former Junior School Boys as Miss Booth—after over 19 years' service at the Institute. Her pupils, past and present, owe her a very great debt and will join with us, we feel convinced, in the most cordial wishes for her future happiness and prosperity.

## Birkenhead Replanned

(We are much indebted to Mr. Allison for the following article. His wide knowledge of local geography has placed at the disposal of the planning consultants and the *Visor* is proud to record this link between the School and the Birkenhead of the future).

IT is an astonishing fact that the British, who have been pioneers in the development of democratic institutions and scientific ideas, should have given so little thought to the planning of their cities as the expression of the life of a great people.

The inter-war increase in the volume of motor transport, the revelation (by the evacuation of 1939) of the evils of slum life, and the present unprecedented housing shortage have all brought home to the man in the street the necessity for planning our towns in a civilised way. This has been so in the case of Birkenhead as of other towns in Britain.

Birkenhead is a seaport, a site for manufacture, and a dormitory for the city of Liverpool across the Mersey mouth. In addition, it acts as a corridor connecting Cheshire and Lancashire, and it provides transport and electricity to neighbouring communities, which it also serves in some measure as a social and shopping centre.

For the adequate fulfilment of these functions it has certain important advantages. It fronts the deeper water of one of the world's great rivers. It had originally, too, a frontage to a long tidal creek, since converted into an extensive docking space. It connects easily via the Cheshire Gate with the industrial Midlands, and is the terminus of a main railway route. It had, and still has to some extent, dry sandstone building sites with excellent viewpoints. It forms part of Wirral, a peninsula handicapped perhaps by its lack of elbow room, but fortunate in being swept by fresh sea air, and in its possession (despite the recent ravages of the motor vehicle and the builder) of still pleasant stretches of typical English countryside.

But the development of Birkenhead has done nothing like justice to this striking combination of advantages, and it has long been apparent that there was something seriously wrong with the town. Two planning consultants, Sir Charles Reilly, Emeritus Professor of Architecture in the University of Liverpool and a great pioneer of Civic Design, and Mr. N. J. Aslan, were called in to diagnose its case and to suggest a remedy. The publication of their findings, expressed in a Report accompanied by maps, diagrams, photographs and drawings, may be regarded as a landmark in the history of Birkenhead. What these experts recommend is here briefly summarised.

*(1) The general muddle of the town must be replaced by order.*

Most of us will agree that houses and towns are both the homes of communities.

In a well run house special rooms are reserved for special purposes. The dining room is not the place for washing and cooking, and the piano is not kept in the coal house. And in a well planned town the industrial areas are separated from the residential and other quarters.

It is because our predecessors in Birkenhead did not appreciate this fact that the town is now a mix up of industry, housing and other inappropriate "users." Hence the planners have divided it into well defined zones, each designed to play its special part in the life of the whole community. If the plan is realised Hamilton Square and its environs, much less troubled with heavy dangerous traffic than at present, will become an enlarged Civic and Commercial Centre, the Park Road South area an Academic Precinct (the secluded home of a number of Schools), Grange Road and its extension westwards the main Shopping Centre, and the Conway Street-Argyle Street junction the town's Amusement Centre. Industry is reserved for the area between the docks and Price Street (a greatly improved Price Street), and for the riverside districts near Green Lane.

The position of each of these proposed zones has been carefully thought out. In consequence, industry will be rendered more efficient, leisure more pleasant, and life generally more healthy



(2) *Housing and architectural standards must be improved and overcrowding reduced.*

For a long time lower Birkenhead, despite the monumental conception of Hamilton Square, has impressed the stranger with its drabness, its smoke pall, and its determination to make adjacent buildings as much unlike each other as possible.

As we should expect, the Report has much to say about the general brightening up of the town, and the special architectural opportunities which rebuilding will afford. It advocates the appointment of a Borough Architect.

Most dockyard and shipyard workers must live near the waterfront, and here there has always been a tendency to congestion. Overcrowding means low health standards, disease, and early death; and overcrowding has recently increased.

In dealing with dockland our planners, then, had to ask difficult questions: How can we relieve this congestion, and yet do the minimum harm to rural Wirral? How can we, in this blitzed and blighted district, improve the life of people who must be re-housed near their work? How can we build upwards in a town where flats are unpopular?

As answers to these questions, two most interesting alternative schemes, models for the whole lower town area, are propounded for the reconstruction of the "Conway Neighbourhood Unit." Either of them, if realised, will raise immeasurably the standard of urban living, and express in neat residence and open space a gaiety which lower Birkenhead has never known.

(3) *An early solution of our urgent traffic problem is imperative.*

Great streams of traffic now converge on the Woodside apex. Our roads, laid out in the pony trap age, and leading "anywhere, everywhere, and nowhere," must continue to carry an ever growing number of larger and faster motor vehicles. Road accidents are increasing, and it is clear that things will go from bad to worse unless a remedy is found which in courage and imagination will match the size of the problem.

The planners have a number of important proposals to make about this, and of these three are specially noteworthy. They advocate the construction of

- (a) A new short stretch of arterial road between Tunnel Place and the New Price Street. This by-pass is perhaps the basic proposal of the whole plan. It would run parallel to the railway, and like it would be bridged by Argyle Street.
- (b) A second arterial road running through the Fender Valley and designed to serve the western dockland district.
- (c) Various transverse loop roads, the Park Library Crescent for example, cutting across the grain of the borough.

These and other innovations should mean that the port of Birkenhead will be efficiently joined to its hinterland, that our two industrial areas will be brought together effectively, that arterial and local traffic will be sorted out, that Hamilton Square will exclude heavy dock-bound vehicles, and that all parts of the town will be more safely interconnected.

(4) *A sense of neighbourhood must be encouraged.*

Just as schools can be divided into "houses," so the residential parts of towns can be divided into neighbourhoods; and just as the schoolboy who earns distinction for his house does so also for his school, so we may expect the good neighbour to prove himself a good citizen. Neighbourly conduct and a sense of pride in one's neighbourhood are in fact the bases of all responsible citizenship.

Hence it has been wise to plan Birkenhead as a series of "neighbourhood units," each housing about 10,000 people, and each equipped with its primary school, shopping centre, community centre, recreational facilities and open space.

Birkenhead, when the plan is completed, will thus be like a federation of village communities within the framework of a larger unity. The organisation of life within these communities, and the friendly rivalry between them, might well re-vitalise our whole system of democratic government. One reason for the decline of local feeling in this and other towns is that existing municipal wards are artificial units with absurd boundaries. They have no traditions, and possess no community centres by means of which sound traditions might be built up.

(5) *New industries affording steady employment must be introduced.*

Birkenhead earns its living in too one-sided a way. We depend overmuch on dock labouring and the building and repair of ships, activities which are amongst the first to feel the effects of trade depression, and which employ men and boys exclusively.

To reduce the boom-slump element in her economy, Birkenhead needs to create industries like the large scale manufacture of biscuits and sugar confectionery which produce commodities in steady demand, and can absorb the female labour which during the war was engaged in munition making outside the town. For such industries Birkenhead has considerable advantages. As part of a great seaport she is naturally a fine distributing centre, and she has reserves of well placed land at the North End and in Lower Tranmere. It should also be borne in mind that an attractive town will help to attract such industries, so that a satisfactory solution of our housing problem will tend to solve our unemployment problem also.

As an encouragement to the small industrialist, e.g., the cabinet maker, the planners suggest the building of multi-storied workshops arranged as flats. This is an innovation whose results will be awaited with great interest, if only because steady employment means increased civic revenue.

(6) *Other recommendations.*

The Report has many other important proposals, of which only a selection can be noted here: the building of a Crystal Palace on the Woodside front, the scheduling of our historic buildings, a wiser distribution of open spaces, the planting of suitable trees to relieve the bareness of our streets, the general strategy of reconstruction.

\* \* \* \*

What has all this to do with us? It is a challenge to our pride, vitality and courage. We face a simple choice—either the perpetuation of squalor, ill health and inefficiency, or the expenditure of money and effort in their removal; either decay or the implementation of a design for living.

It will undoubtedly be costly to re-plan Birkenhead, though it may be costlier still, in the long run, not to do so. But hard cash, which the adult citizen must provide, will be only part of the price to be paid. Hard thinking must be done as well.

And here the younger generation can prepare itself. It can study impartially those facts—geographical, historical, economic and the rest—which help us to interpret our common life; it can learn, as Nelson did, that the boldest courses are often safest; and in so doing it can create a nucleus of educated and resolute public opinion without which democracy, in an age of planning, may be no more than a name. J.E.A.

### *It's Unfair*

I PREFER to remain anomalous, as the old lag said when they told him it was usual for everyone to sign the visitor's book. It is not that I mind your knowing who I am: the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the *Visor* Committee both know me, and, after glancing hastily in both directions, will even recognise me, if necessary, in the street. But they agree with me that it may perhaps be better for all concerned if my name does not appear. I have my own reasons too. You see, I am employed by a Large Body. The Body makes Regulations by which I am bound. The Body says I am deemed to know all about these Regulations whether I have, in fact, read them or not. I have, in fact, read them. They state very plainly that I must obtain someone's consent before I may publish or cause to be published any article . . . I blush to admit that I have obtained no one's consent for the publication of this article.

So far, I feel, most of you are with me. But I have another reason which I cannot explain so openly. I will give you some clues which will help you to guess the truth, and leave it to you to decide whether I still have your sympathy and support.

Many years ago I acted foolishly. It seemed all right to me at the time, but one thing led to another; I was badly advised, and almost before I knew what I had done, I was serving a long term of imprisonment . . . Years passed. I had settled down to the routine, which was



not too unpleasant, and was making the best of a bad business when the War came. The thought of escape had first occurred to me a year or two before the actual outbreak. I felt that war was a certainty, and thought it might give me an opportunity. It was not possible to plan far ahead, but I made all the preparations I could. In 1941, two years after it had started, the chance came. I grabbed it with both hands, and got clean away. *There are still six years of that sentence to run*, and although I have changed my identity pretty completely, some of my old cronies are still behind the bars, and I should hate to hurt their feelings. So now you know (or do you?) why this article is unsigned, and I hope you think none the worse of me.

My unhappy experience has naturally brought me into close contact with what is called Justice, and has also provided me with long periods of uninterrupted solitude in which to contemplate that highly praised abstraction. The hours of study which I gave to it, far from changing my opinion, only confirmed the view I previously held that it was very much overrated. I do not mean merely that the sort of justice commonly handed out is an inferior substitute for the real thing, but that Justice itself is exalted and transformed in our minds into something much more ideal and godlike than it really is.

And here I must make another confession. I was once a school-master. You will hardly forgive me for that, I know; but before you condemn me, and turn over to read something else, let me say that at least I saw my error, gave it up, and have not gone back to it since.

But we were talking about Justice, and I recall that when boys used to complain to me—and they often did—that something I, or another master, or a boy had done was unjust or ‘not fair,’ I always asked them ‘Well, what do you expect? Do you think this world was created and is being run on a basis of justice? Do you imagine that when you leave school for work or business your employers, your employee, your colleagues, your competitors, will always be scrupulously just and fair in their dealings with you? If so, I would inform them, ‘you are going to wake up one day and wonder what hit you.’ I tried to show them that the ideas of fair play and justice which were plugged into them in school were very admirable and excellent, but were far from being universally practised, and that the sooner they became accustomed to getting a little *unfair* play and *injustice*, and to taking it without squealing and also without trying to take the law into their own hands when the official guardians of the law seemed inefficient or biased against them, the happier they would be.

I believe the outcry about fair play is overdone, so that you all get the notion that there is a great god Justice who will see that right is done, that innocence does not suffer, and that the big bully is always punished in the end. In this way you grow up to be men having formed the belief that Justice is something noble and divine in itself, whereas it is nothing of the kind. Justice is a convenient and safe arrangement

made by the vast majority of us who are not strong enough or clever enough to dominate the rest and get our own way; an arrangement by which we prevent anyone who *is* stronger or cleverer than the rest from getting *his* own way at our expense. We *say* that it is not fair for him, because he is strong or clever, to get more than his share by robbing us; we *mean* that we want to keep what we have, and not to have it taken away from us by someone stronger. And because most of us are physically weak and mentally inept (let us face it!) we band ourselves together against the few strong and clever ones, and subscribe money to pay men called M.P.'s, and lawyers and judges and magistrates and policemen to stop them using their brawn and brains to swindle or slug us.

Now all this seems a rather unheroic and undignified way of doing things, and so, in order to restore our high opinion of ourselves, and to feel that we are not really cowards and weaklings but high-minded citizens, we have to build it up into something good and satisfying. So we make a song about it and call it Justice and Playing the Game; we praise it in hymns and embody it in sculpture; we make a god of it and worship it; our self-esteem is restored, and we feel as good as if we had been to church. Do not think for a moment that I am decrying Justice or underestimating its value. Far from it. The race could not get on without it. It is necessary to human survival, and to us humans our survival as a species is a matter of great importance, though fishes, I understand, would give it a very low priority. But though it is a working necessity, do not let us for that reason deify it! A thing may be useful and even necessary without being divine; manure is also necessary.

And so, when something happens which is clearly 'unfair,' when the wrong boy gets punished, the culprit escapes, and the blue-eyed innocent is left to carry the can, we should not make fools of ourselves as our elders and betters very commonly do. They, I am sorry to say, set us a poor example in this respect, partly because they were brought up on this 'fair play' diet at school. Read the papers and listen to the indignant comments of grown-up readers. There has been 'a gross miscarriage of justice'; the case cries aloud to high heaven for retribution, for vengeance on the oppressors, exposure of the scandal, righting of the wrong, vindication of this, and unmasking of that,—in short there is a general hoo-ha of all those rich and high-sounding phrases we have coined to ring reassuringly in our own ears. Nothing is done, of course. No action follows. The fine phrases are like the cannon of the old-time Chinese artilleryman, which he would fire off from time to time, not with any special target in view, but because of their loud and satisfying report.

And what is the clamour about? What has really happened? Very little. None of Nature's laws has been broken; the foundations of civilisation are just as shaky—no more and no less than they were before; Might is not Right any more than Moses is Roses, both statements being equally silly and meaningless, as is also the converse theorem that Right

is Might. None of the great and abiding verities has, in fact, been disturbed. All that has gone wrong is that one or two of the strong and clever ones (who will always pull a fast one if no one is looking) have got away with it again. Our arrangements for controlling their natural instincts have broken down or been inadequate. Our guardians of justice have been too busy, too slow-witted, too weak, or too corrupt, and for one or other of these reasons have let us down. The wrongdoers may be company directors or commissionaires, dictators or dope fiends, publicans or prefects, schoolmasters or scullions, or even ordinary decent chaps in our own form—for all are human!—and they have got by once again with their bit of burglary or fouling or mass murder or coggling or illegal trafficking or legal swindling (so much safer and more respectable!) or sucking up or blackmail or bullying or whatever their line may be.

And the occasion is not one for beating the breast or wearing sackcloth or crying out on the faith of gods and men; still less for groaning under the iron heel of the oppressor; and less again for trying privately (vain hope!) to do him dirt in return. The proper and only useful course is for us the many, the weak ones, the ordinary chaps, to get together once again; to forget our little differences and private ambitions for the moment; to select our guardians with greater care, and to supervise them more closely and effectively; to make stouter our fences and closer our net around the anti-social persons among us, to improve our laws so that they will restrain the gambler in lives as capably as the street better, and will protect us against the powerful corporation or combine as surely as against the black-marketing costermonger and the common cheat.

We have been too much concerned in the past to hold up holy hands in horror and sing indignant psalms about the petty breaches of justice. We have put in a lot of work stopping up the holes in the wire, and catching the lads who nip in through the fence because they are late; but we have ignored the con men who walk in boldly at the main gate and carry off the whole outfit in high-powered cars. Nobody thinks of interfering or questioning them or calling their bluff, because they are all dolled up in old school ties or brass hats. But these are the gentry who will bring us grief; these are the gangsters who if allowed to pursue their course unhindered, will break down our whole system of justice and land us in a chaos of anarchy. These are the people we must put under restraint whatever their line in headgear or neckwear, be they brigadiers or barons or just plain cooks without any fancy alias. We must remember that we are many and they are few; that as long as we stick together, and keep our eyes and ears open and our noses dry, and never let up, we can always have them just where we want them.

This, by the bye, is not only the way to secure justice: it is the only practical recipe for controlling atomic energy and world famine, and for securing—a most important matter, whatever fishes think—the survival of the human race.





WE extend hearty if belated congratulations to Miss Booth and to Miss Rosenbloom on their marriages. It took some time for the School to get used to their new styles as Mrs. Curtis and Mrs. Davies.

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Observers for a Gallup Poll who might have imagined during the first half of the term that Tate House had recruited an extensive force of regimental police complete with red armlets would have been wrong as usual. These distinctively marked gentry were merely taking part in the vaccination drive.

\* \* \* \* \*

We were very glad to welcome Mr. H. Robinson who took up his duties as Janitor on January 1st and who quickly made himself at home among us. He served in the Royal Engineers during the war and took part in the great invasion of Europe since when the most ferocious school-boy panzer forces have no terror for him. We much appreciate also the services of our new groundsman, Mr. Alcock, and hope he will continue in office for a long period.

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A photograph of the whole School was taken on the afternoon of April 30th. Immediately afterwards a photograph of the Staff was taken, the first for at least twenty years. We are pleased to include a reproduction of this.

\* \* \* \* \*

We acknowledge with many thanks receipt of the magazines of the Holt School, Liverpool, Calday Grange Grammar School and King George School, Southport. In the latter, we were very interested in the references to Mr. W. H. Watts formerly Second Master at the Institute. We were glad to see Mr. Watts looking so much better after his serious illness, when he attended the Prize Giving on March 14th, and we wish him many happy days now that he has finally retired from teaching.

\* \* \* \* \*

School cricket has been seriously handicapped by the breakdown of the Atco mower which has been out of use since the beginning of the term. Owing to the condition of the 1st XI. pitch, all our early matches this season had to be played away.

The School is still further indebted to Mrs. Forshaw who has presented several of her son's school prizes to the Library. Malcolm Forshaw, an Old Boy who showed great promise in architectural studies, lost his life during training in the recent war. An Art Prize, given in his memory by Mrs. Forshaw, is now awarded annually. Several volumes have also been presented to the Library by F. G. Peers, an Old Boy now in residence at St. John's College, Cambridge.

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A noteworthy feature of recent terms has been the improved singing at morning prayers. Although the hall is not an ideal place either for assembly or for community singing, a bright and vigorous start to "the trivial round" is to be encouraged, and we hope our choristers will continue in this good work.

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We congratulate F. G. Peers on the unusual distinction of appearing for his College (St. John's, Cambridge), in both Rugger and Soccer (known as "Cuppers") teams. The two sides proved champions in both competitions.

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The School wishes to place on record its appreciation of the service of Old Boys in local municipal affairs. Both Mr. Chisholm and Mr. Pappworth are now Town Councillors. As is well known, another Old Boy, Alderman Boyd, has been a prominent figure in local government for many years.

\* \* \* \* \*

We beg to congratulate another Old Boy, Dr. R. E. Roberts, on his election to a Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians. After his schooldays at the Institute, Dr. Roberts went to Liverpool University in 1905, eventually being appointed lecturer in radiology there. He has been radiologist to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary since 1920 as well as regional adviser in radiology to the Ministry of Health.

## *Ode to a Forward*

TO sweat, to toil, to heave and shove,  
 As one of eight all hand in glove  
 To take the ball or take the strain  
 And yet with all no glory gain  
 To get "it" back or make a wheel,  
 And then when stopped to have a heel.  
 In line outs jump the ball to clear  
 But ne'er receive a helping cheer,  
 That depicts as like as not  
 A rugby forward's heavy lot.  
 "The game is hard for him" you say,  
 But tell him so and he'll say "Nay,  
 A forward's game, I'll always play."

J.F.M.

## Rugby

DESPITE the fact that the rugger season ended in a blaze of glory, the first team's performance throughout the term was rather erratic. Unfortunately, on several occasions they were unable to turn out the regular XV. This fact, together with some bad luck and indifferent play, brought us an unexpectedly high proportion of defeats. Poor teamwork and lack of finish were the main faults. Incidentally, these weaknesses can be removed by systematic training. The "Seven-A-Side" Tournament demonstrated the marked ability of several of our players, particularly as individualists. But in the School games we missed those smooth movements which come from good tactics and skilful ball work. A good XV. must have perfect understanding; that is, they must practice.

But, lest the picture should become too sombre, let me hasten to say that we had our bright spots. We beat Park H.S., Hawarden County School, and an Old Boys' XV. We had very enjoyable, if unsuccessful, tussles with St. Mary's College and Ruthin. In the former game, fielding only 14 players, B.I. lost 11—14 after giving away two penalty goals. In the latter game, Ruthin's fine back play demoralised us, and we lost 0—18.

The end of the season brought B.I. a great success—that of winning the Schools' Tournament at the Calday "Seven-A-Sides." The School was represented by Thomas, Dickson, Podmore, Jones, E. W., Owers, Young, and Liggett. We won three games, with a total of 10 points against us and 43 in our favour. Constructive movements and hard running brought success. Outstanding tries were scored by Podmore, who ran three times from our own '25' to score. After the game we were congratulated by Mr. Meikle, the English Rugby International, for our constructive play. Our victims, in order, were Wirral "B." St. Mary's College, Wirral "A."

During the term, the forwards played quite well, although at times they were inclined to be rather tame. The halves, Dickson and Bird, gradually developed a very effective partnership. The threequarters were potentially good, and showed initiative and thrust. But far too many movements were spoiled by poor handling and running across the field. Johnston, at full back, was always confident and resourceful.

The 2nds had the same weaknesses as the 1st XV. Horne, the Captain, kept the team together and played well in various positions. Burls and Jackson shone among the forwards, while Turner and Goodwin were the best backs.

Unfortunately the 3rd XV. and the Bantams had very little to do this term.

A word of praise and thanks is due to our efficient caterers: J. H. Stewart and R. E. P. Wright, to our zealous linesman, B. Weir (VIIb), and to the groundsman.

	Ground.			Result.			Score.		
	1st.	2nd.	Bant.	1st.	2nd.	Bant.	1st.	2nd.	Bant.
Park High School .....	H.	—	—	W.	—	—	25	0	
King George V. School...	H.	A.	—	L.	L.	—	3-12	0-9	
Walasey Grammar Sch...	A.	H.	—	L.	L.	—	3-9	0-9	
Oldershaw Grammar Sch..	A.	H.	—	L.	W.	—	3-14	22-5	
Wirral Grammar Sch. ....	A.	H.	H.	L.	D.	D.	3-12	6-6	3-3
Ruthin School .....	H.	—	—	L.	—	—	0-18		
St. Mary's Col. (Crosby)...	H.	—	—	L.	—	—	11-14		
Hawarden C.S. ....	H.	—	—	W.	—	—	34-3		
Old Boys .....	H.	—	—	W.	—	—	15-9		

Colours awarded this Season: H, D. Thomas, J. W. L. Young, E. W. Jones, J. H. Liggett, L. Crossley. A.D.L.

## Ode to a Three Quarter

THE ball's in the scrum, it's coming out.

It's back to the three, spectators shout.

A sidestep, a dummy, and out to the wing,

Flying down touch like an arrow from string,

He's done it again—a try on the score.

To mount up the points—that's the work of the four

But think not fair Reader that scoring is all

And that all we must do is to run with the ball.

As often as not the ball's with the foe

And then the three quarter must tackle low.

The rest of the team is essential it's true—

Forwards, halfbacks, and fullbacks too

But what would you do without the three Q?

F.M.O.

## Boxing Club

*President*: The Headmaster; *Chairman*: Mr. A. D. Lewis; *Captain*: J. H. Liggett.

THERE appears to be plenty of enthusiasm amongst our pugilists—more enthusiasm than science at the present moment perhaps. However, with practice and training, that defect will soon be removed. One very encouraging feature is the interest of the junior boys in this gentle pastime of ours. There is every reason to believe that they will restore the club to its pre-war standard.



Next term we hope to have a team fit to resume our former boxing fixtures with other schools. That is one reason why we should like a few more of the senior boys to strip and don the gloves occasionally. A really successful and representative team must have support from the bigger and heavier boys—the bigger the better. We promise a warm welcome to all recruits.

At present the club meets once a week for spring practice. If sufficient progress is made next term, in addition to team matches with other schools, we hope to run competitions and championship tournaments inside before the end of the season.

A.D.L.

## Scout Notes

**N**OW the camping season is well under way, and the troop are looking forward to the annual summer camp. This year the Court of Honour have decided to hold it at Conway.

Plans are in the offing for a visit to France for a fortnight next Easter. Only eight members of the troop will be allowed to go, as the Court of Honour does not want the party to become too unwieldy.

At the end of June the annual Birkenhead Local Association Scout Sports are going to be held, and the troop are going to try to repeat some of their former success.

Recently the troop has been entirely re-organised into four patrols. These are under the capable leadership of Messrs. Kelsall, Boardman, Black, and Goodwin, with R. E. P. Wright continuing as Troop Leader.

A cricket team is to be formed after the Examinations, when the Seniors in the troop will be able to devote more time to the troop's welfare.

R. E. P. WRIGHT.

## Old Boys' Association

**A**T a recent meeting of Old Boys of the School which was well attended, it was decided to revive the above Association under one organising body. Mr. C. D. Gracey acted as chairman and the Headmaster (who is President of the Society) emphasised the value at the present time of full co-operation among the Old Boys. An interim committee was set up to co-ordinate their varied interests, and its report will be presented at another meeting to be held at the School on Monday, July 1st, at 8 p.m. Further particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary (Mr. A. I. Jones), c/o. Birkenhead Institute. In addition to the Secretary, the committee comprises: Messrs. H. Winter, L. Berkson, J. B. Evans, P. Burrell, L. Goodwin, C. R. Lockyer, K. Coughtrie, A. Foster. The Old Instonians' Rugby Football Club has arranged fixtures for two teams next term. Old Boys desirous of playing are advised to get into touch with Mr. P. Burrell at 17 Mather Avenue.

1st XI., 1946.



Mr. Thacker, H. A. Johnston, J. W. L. Young, J. H. Lovatt, C. J. Roberts, C. D. Henry, F. Rowlands, P. Dobbing,  
K. J. Horne, D. R. Burls, H. D. Thomas (Capt.), K. Finch, T. Gill.

## "The Torch Bearers,"

APRIL 5TH, 6TH, 1946.



Mr. E. C. Townsend, P. Bolam, J. Liggett, F. Owers, Mr. L. T. Malcolm, A. Johnston, E. Barzey, J. Gray,  
M. Acton, A. Powell, E. Jones, D. Buris, W. Baker,