

*D. Slack*

# THE VISOR

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BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE  
SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

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CHRISTMAS, 1947.

## Prefects 1947-8



J. W. Kearney, K. O. Gore, T. H. Gill, J. C. Holden, A. A. Smith, D. J. Silcock, K. Percy, G. R. Bennett, J. B. Goodwin,  
M. Smith, A. G. Powell, R. E. P. Wright, R. H. Howard, B. A. Weir,  
K. B. Finch, V. L. Smith, V. A. Mealor.

Photo by Cull.



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Assistant Scout Master: F. TOMLINSON.

Troop Leader: J. B. GOODWIN.

Senior Patrol Leader: F. PRICE.

Patrol Leaders: F. PRICE, D. FINNEY, H. SMITH, J. BYRON.

## School Calendar

Autumn Term begins .....	September 8th.
Half Term .....	October 29th—November 4th.
Autumn Term ends .....	Friday, 19th December.
Spring Term begins .....	Monday, 5th January, 1948.
Half Term .....	February 13th—16th inclusive.
Spring Term ends .....	Wednesday, 24th March.
Summer Term begins .....	Monday, 12th April.
Half Term .....	May 17th—21st inclusive.
Summer Term ends .....	Thursday, 22nd July.
Autumn Term begins .....	Monday, 6th September.

## Editorial

IT is sometimes said that school magazines are played out, that they are obsolete period-pieces like aspidistras and horse hair sofas, and that therefore they should be abandoned. There is no doubt that they *are* old fashioned in the sense that they were born in the last century (in common with those laughably Victorian notions like evolution, functional architecture, electricity or atomic research), but we should be wary of condemning them rashly on that account. School magazines like debating societies are a survival from an age when the urge to write or to speak in public was real and lively, and we think them none the worse for that. There are still some good arguments left in favour of doing for one's self rather than for watching the other fellow do it. The *Visor*, which like other magazines of its kind, on Merseyside at least, seems singularly robust despite its grey hairs, offers everyone connected with the School the opportunity of seeing himself in print. This we would say is the first and perhaps the best reason for its continuance. But if it is valuable for 'straight' relaying of our members' wisdom and erudition—none the less



real for its occasional diffidence—its second purpose is surely as a store of records which may be played over with pleasure long after the actual performers have withdrawn and vanished. Like rare vintages, school magazines improve with keeping, but the cellar must be constantly replenished. The eye must be on the days ahead. For these reasons we believe that the effort to produce the *Visor* term by term is a work of the highest value. The duty imposed on editors and their assistants is an obvious one and they are there to be abused (as happens not infrequently) if they appear incompetent. There is no less an obligation, perhaps not always so eagerly seized, on their public on the other side of the counter, to keep the magazine going by contributions and subscriptions. Twenty or thirty years hence, to take *this* term's *Visor* from the shelf and recall, as if by magic, the Homeric days of long ago, will afford the greatest pleasure. It cannot be realised unless the ideas, the incidents and the impressions of to-day are captured in their flight and registered ere they go. "Now is the acceptable time," say all editors, desperately struggling with proofs and copy. In a larger sense, too, now is the time to make the *Visor* successful so that in the future its serried volumes may be highly prized.

## Salvete

Armstrong, C. H.; Baird, R. B.; Batterham, W.; Begley, M. J.; Bradshaw, N.; Brookfield, R.; Brown, C.; Bryant, W. N.; Cackett, J. B.; Cadman, B.; Cooper, G. W.; Critten, B. A.; Dodd, T. A.; Dowler, R. G.; Duff, R. D.; Edwards, G. A. B.; Evans, R. C.; Evans, R.; Galtress, J. D. M.; Gardner, R. N.; Hartley, D. E.; Hatfield, B. A.; Haughton, B. A.; Herbert, F.; Higham, R. J.; Humphreys, J.; Iveson, S. J. E.; Jones, A. E.; Jones, D. A.; Jones, G. T.; Jones, R. A.; Kerr, E.; Lewis, D. L.; Lockerbie, J. F.; Longton, W. J.; Loudon, S. T.; Makinson, B. J.; Marsh, A. F.; Mathieson, D. M.; Moore, F.; McKie, F.; Newton, R. D.; Onions, G. W.; Parsley, L. C.; Richards, W. B.; Roberts, A. G.; Roberts, R. C.; Robinson, W. C.; Roderick, C. A.; Shaw, R. F.; Simmons, J. A.; Slwin, C.; Smith, D.; Smith, J. A. H.; Smith, R. W.; Stephens, W. M.; Sutton, W. R.; Taylor, R.; Turner, R.; Vossler, R. F.; Watt, E. S.; Williams, B. C.; Williams, B. C.; Williams, G. M.; Williamson, J. G.; Youart, R. E.; Colville, P. W.; Moore, D. S.

## Valete

### SUMMER TERM.

Advanced: Dobbing, P.; Fanning, J. T.; Henry, C. D.; Horne, K. J.; Johnston, H. A.; Jones, W. E.; Ligget, J. H.; Morris, J. E.; Owers, F. M.; Stewart, J. H.; Plimley, A.

VIs.: Cashen, S.; Harris, R.; Huntriss, J. B.; Hutchinson, B. R.; Hynes, P. E.; Jackson, W. E.; Jones, P. R.; McGovern, J.; McGowan, W. J.; Platt, G. R.; Riley, P. D.; Sherry, L. R.; Spink, J. E.; Vick, W. S.  
 VIa.: Bowen, G. E.; Crebbin, E. V.; Hollinger, P. G.; Patterson, J. R. V.; Skipsey, L. A.; Thomas, L. R.; Twomey, B. J.; Waring, R. E.  
 VIb.: Bell, A.; Bennetts, D. S.; Buckney, R. M.; Gibbons, W. A.; Hart, T.; Johnston, W. A.; Jones, H.; Miller, J. C.; Morton, W. H.; Nobes, C.; Reid, R.; Rogers, J. D.; Walley, N.; Yates, G. E.  
 Remove S.: Capon, B.; Entwistle, R. S.; Massey, G. A.; Mowll, R.  
 Remove b.: Cowley, J. W.; Dade, E.; Goud, D. L.; Court, H. R.; Hughes, L. A.; Youds, D. W.  
 Va.: Apter, J. D.  
 Vb.: Griffiths, F. H.  
 IV. Senior: Kemp, G. D.  
 IIIa.: Edwards, J. H.

<p>             WE record with great regret the death of PETER              RUSSELL JONES of 64 Raffles Road, on August 22nd. He              had been a member of Form VIs.           </p>
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## *Staff Notes*

**T**WO members of the Staff left the School at the end of the Summer Term. Mr. Clare, who succeeded Mr. Clague as Physical Training Master, had been at the Institute for nine years, though he had been on active service during the greater part of the war. We wish him every success in his new appointment at Wallasey and sincerely hope that his place will soon be filled. Mr. Lake, who joined the Staff on the fateful September 1st, 1939, left us to go to Lyme Regis Grammar School, where we trust he will have good fortune. His place has already been filled by Mr. Drinkwater to whom we extend a hearty welcome. Further, we cannot allow the withdrawal of Mr. Winter and Mr. Amlot to pass without assuring them of our appreciation, identifying themselves as they did so whole heartedly with every aspect of the School's life. We wish them every success in the training colleges to which they have now proceeded.

## *Swimming Gala*

**T**HE School's annual swimming gala was held on the evening of Friday the 10th of September. The gala was arranged by Mr. C. Clare, and thanks to his hard work with the boys it was a very successful evening.

Among the boys who distinguished themselves was A. May who won the Junior Plunge with a record distance of 45 ft. 1 in., beating the distance in the Senior Plunge won by K. Horne. Owing to the fact that we had the use of the large bath with its better seating accommodation there was a large and appreciative audience. Our chairman, Councillor John Furness, was unfortunately engaged, but Mrs. Furness kindly consented to take his place and distribute the prizes. W.F.H.

## RESULTS.

SENIOR HANDICAP: 1, W. A. Johnston; 2, R. Lowry.

UNDER 15 HANDICAP: 1, M.F. Williams; 2, R. McLaughlan; 3, D. Fenton.

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP: 1, W. A. Johnston; 2, K. J. Horne; 3, G. Hodgson.

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP: 1, W. Thompson; 2, R. Shimmin; 3, H. T. Roberts.

NEWCOMERS' RACE: 1, B. Cackett; 2, J. Humphreys; 3, J. G. Williamson.

UNDER 14 HANDICAP: 1, C. K. Classon; 2, J. B. Holmes; 3, D. J. Smith.

UNDER 13 HANDICAP: 1, J. C. Worral; 2, W. McKee; 3, A. C. Mowll.

JUNIOR PLUNGE: 1, A. May; 2, C. R. Rankin; 3, H. Roberts.

JUNIOR DIVING COMPETITION: 1, J. R. Crowe; 2, R. Shimmin; 3, C. R. Rankin.

SENIOR OBSTACLE RACE: 1, G. Hodgson; 2, L. Hessier; 3, R. Lowry.

JUNIOR OBSTACLE RACE: 1, W. Thompson; 2, H. Roberts; 3, C. R. Rankin.

SENIOR DIVING COMPETITION: 1, K. J. Horne; 3, W. A. Johnston; 3, L. Hessler.

SENIOR BACKSTROKE: 1, K. J. Horne; 2, R. E. Moss; 3, R. G. Palmer.

SENIOR LIGHTED TAPER RACE: 1, R. E. Moss; 2, M. Wood.

JUNIOR BREAST STROKE: 1, R. Shimmin; 2, W. Thompson; 3, F. Sheridan.

SENIOR BREAST STROKE: 1, K. J. Horne; 2, R. E. Moss; 3, C. G. Adams.

JUNIOR BACK STROKE: 1, W. Thompson; 2, A. May; 3, E. Derriscott.

JUNIOR LIGHTED TAPER RACE: 1, A. May; 2, W. Thompson; 3, W. Jones.

SENIOR PLUNGE: 1, K. J. Horne; 2, L. Hessler; 3, G. Hodgson.

JUNIOR HOUSE SQUADRON RACE: Tate (Team: W. Thompson, R. Shimmin, N. A. Woodfine, F. Sheridan); 2, Atkin; 3, Westminster.

SENIOR HOUSE SQUADRON RACE: Westminster (Team: K. J. Horne, W. A. Johnston, G. Hodgson, L. Hessler).

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP SENIOR:

1st—Westminster	40 points.
2nd—Tate	23 points.
3rd—Atkin	13 points.
4th—Stitt	8 points.



## ***Higher School Certificate Examination 1947***

**T**HE following are to be congratulated on having passed the examination, while special mention must be made of the fact that W. E. Jones gained Distinctions in Chemistry and Physics:—

J. T. Fanning, K. B. Finch, K. J. Horne, H. A. Johnston, W. E. Jones, J. H. Liggett, J. E. Morris, T. M. Owers, J. H. Stewart.

## ***Higher School Certificate Subsidiary Examination 1947***

**T**HE following were granted Letters of Success in the Subsidiary Higher School Certificate Examination:—

G. R. Bennett, A. R. Boynton, M. T. Caddick, J. S. Davies, T. H. Gill, K. O. Gore, J. C. Holden, W. F. Hurst, D. O. Jones, R. N. Jones, I. S. Macdonald, V. A. Mealor, J. Moorhouse, R. G. Palmer, K. R. Percy, A. Plimley, D. D. J. Silcock, V. L. Smith, H. N. Taylor, B. A. Weir, R. F. Wilde, J. D. Wright.

## ***School Certificate Results 1947***

FORM VI. S.: Bird, N. L.; Cashen, S.; Harris, R.; Higgins, H. R.; Howard, R. H.; Huntriss, J. B.; Hutchinson, B. R.; Hynes, P. E.; Jackson, A.; Jackson, W. E.; Jones, P. R.; Jones, R. W.; McGovern, J.; McGowan, W. J.; Maddock, C.; Maxwell, D. J.; Osborn, N. B.; Platt, G. R.; Riley, P. D.; Shaw, E. R.; Sherry, L. R.; Spink, J. E.; Turner, H. M.; Vick, W. S.

FORM VIa.: Acton, J. M.; Adams, C. G.; Adams, J. D.; Baker, J. W.; Bennett, R. A.; Bowen, G. E.; Christian, W. B.; Citrine, T. G.; Crebbin, E. V.; Grantham, K. N.; Hellon, C. P.; Hollinger, P. G.; Kearney, J. W.; Ledsome, J. R.; McPherson, I. G.; Meggs, A. G.; Paterson, J. R. V.; Rixon, A.; Smith, A. A.; Thomas, L. R.; Twomey, B. J.; Waring, R. E.; Wiggins, P.; Wollaston, G. H.

FORM VIb.: Bennetts, D. S.; McLeod, D.; Morton, W. H.; Nobes, C.; Stone, S.

## ***The Inauguration of the Mayor, 1947***

**O**NE day last November, I was invited with some other boys from the School to go down to the Town Hall so that we might witness the inauguration ceremony of the new Mayor.

The ceremony took place in the main hall, which is familiar to many members of the School, since it is here that our speech days are held. We took our places in the Public Gallery among more boys and girls who

were representing the other schools of Birkenhead, and who had also been invited. From here, we had a clear view of the scene which was to be enacted before us.

Soon the members of the Council filed in, and the Mayor was announced. The council meeting was then opened, the first business on the agenda being, of course, the inauguration of the new Mayor. The Town Clerk asked for nominations. Alderman Prentice rose, and outlined the work done by Councillor W. E. Power for the community during the last 25 years, and officially proposed him as the new Mayor. Councillor Hugh Platt then rose to second the proposition. After that, the Town Clerk asked if there were any other nominations, and, as none were forthcoming, he announced that Councillor W. E. Power was the new Mayor.

Councillor Power then came into the Hall accompanied by the Major-Domo and, stepping on the dais, he was received by the Town Clerk. He was given a copy of the New Testament to hold and, led by the Town Clerk, he made the statutory vow of allegiance to his king and country, after which he signed the book which contains the names of the Mayors of Birkenhead since it received its charter. The Major-Domo then took the red robe of office from the late Mayor, and placed it on the shoulders of the new Mayor. To me, at least, the most significant part of the ceremony came next. Councillor Guy Williams, the late Mayor, personally put the chain of office round Councillor Power's neck and shaking him by the hand said, "May I be the first person to congratulate you on your high office." This seemed a typical British gesture from one man to another, even though they are opposed politically.

The Mayor then gave an address to the Council and public, in which he outlined the history of Birkenhead, and showed how it could be one of the leading towns in the country.

After this address, the usual business of the council took place. This, however, was soon settled, and the Mayor adjourned the Council. We hurried out to lunch after a very interesting ceremony, which I am sure those who saw it will never forget.

M.T.C.

## ***Shipbuilding at Cammell Laird's—Part 2***

(continued from last issue).

### **(e) THE PROBLEM OF THE LAUNCH.**

The hull in its finished state rests upon keel blocks, bilge blocks, and shores, with its stern towards the river, and now the builder is faced with a two-fold problem—how to transfer its weight from these supports to launching ways, and how to make it take the water safely.

*Parallel standing ways* are erected by carpenters upon blocks on the ground and given the correct slope to the river. This is carefully calculated, and is slightly greater than the declivity of the keel block.

*Sliding ways*, built to resemble the runners of a huge toboggan, lie on the top of the standing ways, and are fastened to the cradle on which the ship rests. The surfaces between the standing and sliding ways are thickly lubricated with tallow, soft soap, and whale oil.

The *cradle* on which the ship rests is made up of a series of vertical and longitudinal supports known as *poppets*. Cradles vary in size according to the form of the ship, a ship with a full form requiring only a small cradle at the bows, a ship with fine lines needing large structures both fore and aft.

How is the ship prevented from sliding into the water before the launch?

There is no possibility of the ship moving until its weight is transferred from the keel and bilge blocks to the launch cradle. This is done a few hours before the launch first by the building of large wedges into the cradle at each support, and then by the gradual thinning and removal of the bilge and keel blocks. The vessel, now sitting in the cradle, is finally held by a bond between the sliding and standing way on each side of the ship, in the form of a sloping shore—the dog shore—or by heavy pivoted steel triggers held in place by hydraulic rams. The knocking away of the dog shore by falling weights or the release of the hydraulic pressure on the triggers finally releases the vessel, which takes its cradle with it.

A big launch is the most dramatic ceremony which industrialism can afford; it is the culminating point of a modern miracle by which creative art, deliberate calculation, and hairbreadth precision have been organised for a great purpose. As the hull slides riverwards above the bubbling oil of the ways thousands of men in scores of different jobs can say with truth, "There, in that vast case of steel, goes something of me—something of my mind and skill." Here, for a moment at least, is a unity born of pride in a common achievement.

It is an immense feat to move on dry land a structure of some 20,000 tons for 500 feet or more and to float it safely. There is the chance of many kinds of mishap. Thus when the ship is half immersed and the stern lifts through buoyancy there is a strain on her forward end, and this must be counteracted, otherwise the back of the ship might well be broken. A launch can be a mathematician's delight, or a nightmare of apprehension.

Clearly, a gentle slope to a deep water channel is essential, and it is a great help for the channel to be wide. Birkenhead is fortunate in this respect; there is no need for a system of heavy and expensive drag chains to pull the ship up when she has left her ways. This is necessary in many yards elsewhere, but on the Woodside—Tranmere front facilities for safe launching into the wide Mersey estuary (here much deeper than on the



Liverpool side which faces it) are unsurpassed, and constitute an important element of advantage.

(f) AFTER THE LAUNCH.

A good deal still remains to be done after the vessel has been towed to the fitting-out Basin. This is a wet dock of 14 acres created at the beginning of this century by the enclosure and revetting in concrete of the mouth of a tidal creek, Tranmere Pool. It separates Laird's 19th Century Yard from the 20th Century addition of Messrs. Cammell Laird.

The chief work after the launch is the installation of propelling machinery, which is lowered into the interior of the ship by cranes operating from the quayside. In some areas the newly launched ship must be towed to the works where engines are made. Cammell Laird's, however, make their own machinery and have achieved a great reputation with the various types of engines and boilers they have produced. Ideally these should provide maximum power in minimum space.

The ship is now fitted with anchors, funnels and steering gear, and cabins and other quarters. Normally, she is then dry docked, given a final coat of paint and generally made ready for her trials.

(g) THE KIND OF WORKERS NEEDED IN SHIP CONSTRUCTION.

In addition to the designers and draughtsmen previously noted, the shipyard affords employment for a large commercial staff comprising accountants, buyers, cost keepers, time keepers, correspondents, wages staff, piece work staff, etc., and for the following types of workmen:—

THE MOULD LOFT MEN, acting on information received from the designers, prepare full size templates.

THE PLATERS, acting on information given by the loft and from detailed drawings, mark and cut bars and plates to the requisite size.

THE FRAME BENDERS heat and bend the frames and work the necessary level of the flanges. Their information is supplied by the mould loft.

THE SHIPWRIGHTS erect a great deal of the material prepared on the berth and are especially responsible for keel blocks, the correct placing and fixing of frames, the preparation of launch ways and cradles, the laying of wood decks and dry docking.

THE RIVETTERS fasten together, with red hot rivets, plates which have been previously punched with holes and temporarily bolted in place. There are millions of rivets in a really large ship.

THE CAULKERS make water-tight the joints which have been riveted between the plates and carry out the water-tighting of the watertight compartments.

THE WELDERS, whose work makes unnecessary that of the riveters and the caulkers, fuse metal plates together into one piece. Welding is a new development in shipbuilding, which has not always proved completely successful.

THE PATTERN MAKERS make patterns in wood of the outside and inside of parts of machinery and ship's fittings. From these patterns moulds for the required castings are made in the foundry.

THE ENGINE MACHINISTS operate lathes, milling machines, drills, etc., for machining and shaping machinery parts to great accuracy.

THE ENGINE FITTERS fit, assemble, and erect the machinery parts into the complete engine.

THE BOILER MAKERS prepare and erect the boilers for producing steam.

OTHER SKILLED WORKERS—among them blacksmiths, plumbers, carpenters, joiners, electricians, painters and crane drivers—find employment also. When work is in full swing, there can be few places where such a wealth and variety of industrial skill is in operation at the same time.

#### (h) THE CLIMATIC FACTOR.

Birkenhead shares with the rest of this country the great advantage of an equable and invigorating climate in which out of door pursuits can normally be carried on at all seasons, and if need be by night as well as by day. In the United States outdoor shipbuilding is liable to be interfered with during the cold of the winter, while on the Continent the industry may be carried on under cover. In the latter case extra capital must be provided, not only for the roofed berths, but also for special cranes—gantry cranes—which can best operate in them. These cranes are somewhat expensive in initial cost and maintenance, and they tend to limit the size of the vessels constructed. In at least one small yard on the Clyde, however, ships are built under cover.

(To be continued).

### *Music Miscellany*

ON the morning of Wednesday, October 15th, the whole School had the pleasure of going to hear a concert given by a section of the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in the Y.M.C.A. hall. The orchestra was conducted by Mr Herbert Bardgett (conductor of the Leeds Festival Choir) who gave an interesting talk on each of the works performed. Before the performance, Mr. Bardgett asked different members of the orchestra to give us an idea of the different tonal qualities of their instruments by playing passages from the programme, and afterwards, as he went through the various pieces, he asked us to pick out the instruments as they played.

The programme, which consisted of the Praeludium by Jarnefelt, Farandole (Suite L'Arlésienne) by Bizet, Bourrée and Hornpipe (Water Music Suite) by Handel, March (Casse Noisette Suite) by Tchaikowsky, Tame Bears and Wild Bears (Wand of Youth Suite) by Elgar, was an excellent one, because the pieces performed displayed the different instru-

ments to their full value.

The orchestra seemed to be in good form and performed the chosen works excellently under the guidance of Mr. Bardgett, taking into consideration the fact that the hall was of the wrong type for an orchestral concert. The concert impressed itself so much upon our minds that even to-day it is possible to hear quite often a rather distorted version of the Praeludium by Jarnefelt issuing from the library.

It was most pleasing to hear the Headmaster announce that he had been able to arrange for parties of boys to go over to the Philharmonic Hall for certain concerts, and the response to this is a sure sign that there are in the School a large number of musically-minded boys.

There has also been an announcement in one Birkenhead newspaper that there will be a visit to Birkenhead of the full Philharmonic Orchestra to give a concert early next year. This is most pleasing, and I am sure we all wish to thank Birkenhead Education Committee for its enterprise in this matter.

W.F.H.

### *Veiled Splendour*

THE mellow moon glides smoothly to its height.

A myriad silver stars around it lie;

The velvet sky is filled with jewelled light,

Like fairy lanterns sparkling there on high.

A light and airy vapour clothes the trees,

While plants and shrubs the strangest shapes assume,

As if the hand of Him who all thing sees

Throws down for their protection semi-gloom.

For now the moon obscured behind a cloud

Deprives the sleeping earth of its clear glow;

All Nature, breathing softly 'neath a shroud

Of darkness, waits expectantly below.

Behold! The heavens once again are bright:

And even so climbs genius clouded o'er

A little while by transitory night

To heights of glory greater than before.

V.A.M.

### *Film Review*

THE British films we have seen during this term have been inferior to the American product only in quantity. The quality of our films is the highest ever, and therefore the majority of films I shall review are British ones.

How many of you thrilled to the adventures of the coward who betrayed his master to the law in the far-off days of smuggling and pirates? Do you remember the scene in "The Man Within" where Richard



Attenborough was being tortured with a red-hot iron to make him reveal the identity of the smuggler chief who was himself looking on? Michael Redgrave played the chief, and what a splendid performance it was! The only drawback of this film was the irritating flash-back which kept switching from a torture-room to a cottage or a forest. Joan Greenwood, who helps Dickie Attenborough to escape, is one of our finest and most promising young stars. Her versatility is proved by the comparison of her acting in 'The Man Within' with her rôle in 'The October Man,' a film with a present-day setting and co-starring John Mills in his best acting part yet. It is the story of a man who is not sure whether he has committed a murder and Miss Greenwood's attempts to prove his innocence lead up to a very exciting climax to a finely acted British film.

Perhaps even Mills' superb acting in 'So Well Remembered' was in some scenes obscured by the realistic rôle of a drunken doctor played by Trevor Howard. The character actors provided the main high-lights of this otherwise dull and slow-moving film made by R. K. O. Radio and the Rank Organisation, and co-starring two American stars Martha Scott (convincingly growing very old) and Richard Carlson with John Mills, Pat Roc and Trevor Howard.

What a difference from the Howard we met in 'Brief Encounter'! An even greater difference will be seen if we glance at his rôle in 'They Made me a Fugitive.' This story of racketeering spivs set in London's underworld is absolutely dripping with blood and tense with action. One scene which everyone will remember is the one where Sally Gray extracted a bullet from Trevor Howard's back with a pair of eye-brow tweezers. Ugh! Our films would be better without this gruesome business. Why not leave that kind of thing to the Americans, who brought it to a fine art in the last reel of 'Duel in the Sun'? However there's another spiv film on the way called 'Dancing with Crime,' co-starring our old friend of the torture rack Richard Attenborough and Sheila Sim. Let's hope it is not so gory.

How surprised I was when I heard Margaret Lockwood say "Yes, ma'am" to Patricia Roc in 'Jassy.' After seeing such films as 'The Wicked Lady,' one naturally expects the domineering woman to be our Margaret, but you never can tell with film script-writers. One of the high-spots in this film was the acting of Esma Cannon, who played a dumb servant-girl whose frantic efforts to utter those few words which could save Margaret Lockwood from being found guilty of murder made an effective climax to a moderately good film.

Dennis Price's acting in 'Jassy' did not come up to the high standard he reached in his rôle of Tom Walls' son in 'Master of Bankdam.' He really had a chance to show his ability to act, and it was unfortunate that a brilliant newcomer put him slightly in the shade. This actor, Stephen Murray, puts over in his first screen rôle a performance usually given only

by experienced film actors. Tom Walls as the father of these two sons walked away with most of the honours, as usual.

Do you remember the girl who shot herself and James Mason in 'Odd Man Out'? She was Kathleen Ryan, and now has proved that her first film was not just a flash in the pan by her splendid acting with Stewart Granger in 'Captain Boycott.' Cecil Parker was good in the title rôle, but once again a newcomer stole a good many scenes. This time it was Noel Purcell as a fiery, hot-headed schoolmaster whose bark is just as sharp as his bite.

One of the most unusual films I have seen was called 'The Brothers,' co-starring Patricia Roc and Maxwell Reed, whom I like more and more every time I see him. This film is unusual in many ways. As it flashes on the screen, a cold blast of air straight from the icy Scottish coast seems to sweep through the cinema. This is the only film I have liked very much without being able to enjoy it; for it is not a film which can readily be enjoyed. The chilly atmosphere puts you off from the start, and as for the ending, well, it was so completely unexpected that I could hardly believe the film was over. A word of praise must go to the camera-men, for the photography is superb.

The latest film of our No. 1 actor James Mason is 'The Upturned Glass,' and this was in Birkenhead at the beginning of the term. The story of a man who, suspecting a woman of killing his sweetheart, makes love to her and kills her is not a new one, but is well-acted. The final shot when Mason committed suicide over a cliff was, I thought, very cleverly taken.

'The Courtneys of Curzon Street' was a truly delightful film. What a fine actor is Michael Wilding. Both he and Anna Neagle keep up their 'Piccadilly Incident' standard in this film. Gone is the morbid heavy-going style of the modern British film, and Herbert Wilcox gives us a gay film with its equal share of laughter and tears to bring back a breath of pre-two-war days in this his latest production.

The only other light-hearted film was 'Holiday Camp,' in which Jack Warner and Kathleen Harrison are co-starred for the first time as father and mother of a family. This team has proved so popular that a series of family films has been planned which may prove as popular as the Hardy family of America. This film tells of the life of a typical English family in a holiday-camp. It makes highly amusing entertainment, and I thoroughly recommend it.

Films to See:—'Uncle Silas,' with Jean Simmons; 'Fame is the Spur,' with Michael Redgrave; 'A Man about the House,' with Kieron Moore; 'The Silver Darlings,' with Clifford Evans; 'The Woman in the Hall,' with Jean Simmons; 'The White Unicorn,' with Margaret Lockwood.

V.A.M.



WE acknowledge with many thanks receipt of the Holt School Magazine and also of "The White Rose," magazine of King George V. School, Southport.

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Performance at Rugby has been so outstanding this term among both present and past members of the School that we take this opportunity of congratulating the 1st XV. on their run of nine matches without a defeat. At the same time we have noted with particular pleasure the appearances of J. T. Bartlett. On October 1st, he was in the Combined Services Team against the Australians at Twickenham, and the "Manchester Guardian" described his performance as "outstanding." A member of the Waterloo Club, Bartlett plays for the Cheshire County Side. In the West Cheshire Trials on October 7th, the School was well represented by the following Old Boys: Garry, Carr, Beacall, and Podmore.

\* \* \* \* \*

Heartly congratulations to W. E. Jones and F. M. Owers who distinguished themselves in the H.S.C. examination, and as a result gained State and Open Scholarships respectively. With his State and Borough Scholarship W. E. Jones goes to the University of Liverpool, while Owers's Open Scholarship takes him to St. Mary's Medical School. J. E. Morris and K. J. Horne also did extremely well in the examination and gained Borough Bursaries to the University of Liverpool, and C. D. Henry gained admission to King's College Hospital Dental School.

\* \* \* \* \*

Some members of the Staff, who formerly travelled luxuriously in cars, are now seen cycling to School. The basic explanation of this is obvious.

\* \* \* \* \*

We hear that our new dininghall, now in course of erection, is to be ready by Christmas; which Christmas is intended is not certain.

\* \* \* \* \*

On November 25th we all went home early to listen to W. H. Lloyd of Remove A who was taking part in a broadcast from the Manchester studios of the B.B.C. Rugby Football was the subject dealt with,



The present Advanced looks like equalling in fame a well-known B.B.C. team of experts, and we are daily expecting news of changes in the cast of "Ignorance is Bliss."

\* \* \* \* \*

The cycle shed has at long last been released from service as an air-raid shelter, but there are, unfortunately, no new cycle racks to put in it.

\* \* \* \* \*

As a result of their peripatetic existence VIb. are intimately acquainted with all the rooms and corridors in the buildings. It has been suggested that they are training as surveyors.

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The annual Poppy Day Collection in the School brought in £4 15s. for the British Legion funds.

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Ian Macdonald (Adv.) and Geoffrey Massey (VIs.) have entered Royal Naval training establishments.

\* \* \* \* \*

H. D. Thomas, a brilliant Rugby player, and former 1st XV. Captain, has been accepted for admission to Keble College, Oxford. At present he is with the R.A. in Palestine.

\* \* \* \* \*

K. J. Horne has started on his course at Haydock Colliery, Wigan, to qualify as a Mining Engineer. Horne has been a Rugby stalwart, first as Captain of the 2nd XV. and later as an invaluable member of the 1st XV.

\* \* \* \* \*

The great success of the Philharmonic concert given to the School in the Y.M.C.A. Hall had the additional good effect of having persuaded twenty boys from the School to visit the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on Saturday, November 29th.

\* \* \* \* \*

The School Playground is evidently not capacious enough for all the various ball games now being played. Some bright sparks when caught playing in the gardens of Hollybank Road excused themselves by indignantly pointing out that they were playing an "away" game. The F.A. (Final Authorities) have decided to cancel all future "away" matches.

\* \* \* \* \*

Just before half-term the appearance of numerous posters on and surrounding the various notice-boards caused much excitement throughout the School. As a result, the Literary and Debating Society were able to boast of a record attendance. Congratulations are also due to the Art Room, which came through with flying colours and very little else.

## *A Visit to the United States*

I SPENT my summer holiday in a novel way. Between the day we broke up in July and the first day of this term, I crossed the Atlantic twice and travelled many miles in America. After some fog on the outward voyage made on the *Queen Elizabeth*, I at last saw Manhattan's amazing sky line beyond the famous Statue of Liberty. On emerging from the Customs Sheds, some striking contrasts with England immediately held me; the crazy speed of the traffic—on the wrong sides of the street too!—the loads of food in the shops and the varied types of humanity about. It may be heresy to say so but few of the men looked really smart with their ties slung any old how round their necks and their strange pattern shirts worn outside their pants. It is fair to them to point out that temperatures were well over 90. I am bound to say, too, that the streets were not over clean. This is due to the prevailing habit of throwing anything away without thought. During the week I was able to stay in New York, I visited the Radio City (Rockfeller Centre), the rough Bowery quarter and two Zoos, one in Central Park and the other in the Bronx. I crossed the old Brooklyn Bridge (still going strong!), visited the large Yankee 'New Brighton,' Coney Island, by ferry, and made the circuit of Manhattan. The electric subway trains are deadly compared with our English ones and seem much less efficient and comfortable than ours. But unforgettable experiences were the lights of Broadway, the Empire State Building and the whole vast city one fantastic glittering fairyland by night.

From New York, I made a rapid round trip to a small town, Barton in Florida. Although I could not stop at Washington on the way south, I was lucky enough to see the flood-lit dome of the Capitol from the train. Everyone was lazy in Florida, the heat being intense. The children down there seemed very advanced and grown up. They asked me many questions about England and thought my way of talking 'funny.' (I had much the same opinion of what passed for English with them!). On the return, I was fortunately able to make a wide sweeping journey to New York by way of the mighty Niagara Falls and Toronto which has a lake frontage reminiscent of the Pier Head at Liverpool. During the fortnight I was in Canada I did some fishing for bass in the Muskoko Lake some 180 miles north of Toronto. Then New York once more and aboard for home which I was very glad to see again. Opening a geography book on America means much more to me now! If anyone is wondering how to spend his 6 weeks holiday in the summer, a trip to the "New World" is a grand idea.

W.H.LL.

## *The Schoolboy's Guide to Schoolmasters*

TEACHERS of mathematics are noted, apart from having mathematical minds, for asking scholars if they understood what they—the teachers, naturally—have just been talking about, and looking suspicious if everyone did. The reason for their suspicion is probably that they think only one half of the class could understand it, and the other half wants the first half to think it as clever as everyone else. This is a malicious thing for mathematics teachers to think; for there is the possibility that the scholars who did not quite grasp how the answer was arrived at were either too physically tired to wave their arms about or too mentally fatigued to go through all the working-out again.

Chemistry teachers have a language all of their own, although some compilers of dictionaries get to know about it. I shall not tell my readers what I call pungent odours, because the editor would not let me say it, anyway. But the writer thinks that if "pungent odours" were let loose in Assembly Halls just before class migrations into them, fewer boys would faint there. An odour a day keeps the doctor away. After reading a boy's own account of a chemical experiment, I was amazed at the way he had picked up the habit of calling bits of wood with sparks on the end "glowing splints."

The writer has never liked physics teachers, not just because of the way they share out their marks, but also because he has never been able to forgive the one who first told him he should never say that kettles boil, but that the water in them is heated until it has reached boiling point. Going through all that may be very nice in a laboratory, but after making a fool of himself trying it out at home, the writer cannot see how he can possibly forgive physics masters.

Forgiving people reminds me that I have already forgiven one religious instructor, or scripture teacher, four hundred and eighty-nine times for calling me names. The next time makes up the seventy times seven.

Students of art—I mean art with paints and rubbers—are often surprised to find that art teachers are usually good artists as well. In examinations art teachers never give full marks on the principle that one can never be perfect, and it is useless for boys who get ninety-five per cent. to rack their brains looking for the lost five.

Teachers who think they are human may be recognised by their defence of the subject they happen to teach—with the exception of Modern Language masters, who do not bother, no matter what their disposition may be. Students of French are resigned to the fact that they have to tolerate the language or love it, while French teachers must inevitably put up with their pupils—they could not love them. Psychologists say they could

write whole volumes on French teachers alone; which disproves the theory some schoolboys have that French masters have no psychology. (School-girls say they have no hearts). However, one realises how intricate the mind of the French teacher is when one tries to follow his apparently logical explanations of the fact that French doors open themselves. The writer, who has undergone such tasks several times during his career, prefers merely to consider this as a difference in habit from those of English doors, which just open nothing in particular. The most outstanding feature about French teachers is that, although they dabble in a few other languages, they do not get as mixed up as people think they would do, and say silly things like, "Thou art arrived before yesterday, not is this not"? My readers (plural, notice; sheer conceit!) will be aware that we English stopped saying people "are" gone a long time ago; which makes French out-of-date.

The most extraordinary thing about teachers of history is that they are interested in it. They pride themselves on their memory and being able to recall the day the Iron Duke lost his eye defending the Bastille and getting the numbers of the kings and centuries right. Their most loved feature is that you can get them talking, when you have not done your homework, about motor-cars instead of Roman chariots.

If there was ever a set of men who are devils for accuracy, it is woodwork teachers. By accuracy I do not mean getting tricky sums right, but getting lines longer than the ruler straight all the way along and not having rulers with niggly bits in them.

The only general facts about English teachers are that they all cross out "can't" in essays and put "cannot" instead in red, and know what all the words in Shakespeare's plays mean. In French, pronunciation is taught long before you get to know whether or not there is a controversy between North and South in France, but by the time you learn how to say "but" properly in English, you have definitely decided whether to call baths barths, with the "s" like a "z," or barths baths. (I apologise to southerners who have difficulty in working this out).

Geography teachers often feature in jokes in newspapers with Little Tommy. One of the really marvellous things which geography teachers accomplish is not only getting maps of South America right without tracing paper, but even drawing them the same shape four times in succession.

My readers will notice that I have said nothing of form-masters or headmasters. The reason I offer is that the former are always something else, and the latter are too dangerous to discuss.

G.M.

## *Literary and Debating Society*

FOUR of the six meetings arranged for this term have taken place so far, and they have all been highly successful.

The motion "That Scientific inventions do more harm than good" was the subject of a combined debate held in conjunction with the Scientific Society on October 28th.

At this meeting more than a hundred members of the School were present, including seven members of the Staff. The intensive propaganda which preceded the debate doubtless contributed to its popularity, but the good average attendance which has been a feature of all meetings this term is most gratifying to the organisers, and it is hoped that the interest shown by senior members of the School will be continued next term, when an equally attractive programme will be arranged. M.T.C.

## *The Farming Camp*

THIS summer the usual complement of boys from the School attended a farming camp at their now familiar haunt outside Chester. The weather was very fine except for a few rainy days, without which a camp would seem incomplete.

The usual camp games were again popular in addition to a new one. This appeared to be the most efficient method yet discovered of breaking one's neck. The idea was to find the biggest haystack possible, to scale it, and once on the dizzy top to jump down. Perhaps the night activities were more restrained this year, and the camp did not leave any outward sign at least on the village.

Here may we, as two members of this year's farming camp, extend a hearty vote of thanks for putting up with us to Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn, and also to Mr. Malcolm without whose untiring efforts the camp would not have been a success. M.T.C.

A.P.

## *Cricket*

ALTHOUGH the 1st XI. began disastrously, they managed to improve considerably as the season progressed. The team in general was efficient, but at times the fielding could have been better. Team-work helped to win many matches, but there were some individualists, like Finch, the captain, whose 93 against the combined Old Boys and Staff XI. was the highest score made at the School for some seasons. Gill and Dickson bowled well throughout the season, Gill creating a School record by taking 60 wickets. Others who may be mentioned as having played well are:—V. L. Smith, K. Horne, and C. D. Henry. On the whole the season was very successful. Colours were awarded to:—Henry, Horne, Dickson, and A. Plimley. T.G.



## CRICKET RESULTS.

Opponents.	Results.		Scores.	
	1st.	2nd.	1st XI.	2nd XI.
Liverpool Institute .....	L.	—	5 —62	—
Wirral Grammar .....	D.	W.	28 for 8—80	70 for 7—61
Holt High School .....	L.	—	77 for 9—90 for 2	—
St. Edwards .....	W.	L.	78 —32	31 —32
Oldershaw .....	D.	W.	112 for 8—48 for 4	28 for 3—9
Bootle .....	W.	—	74 —13	—
Oldershaw .....	D.	L.	103 for 8—30 for 8	31 for 1—59 for 5
Birkenhead Park 3rd XI.....	W.	—	53 —40	—
Park High School.....	L.	D.	42 —71	80 —58 for 8
Bootle .....	W.	—	78 —15	—
Staff and Old Boys .....	W.	—	197 —25	—
Park High School.....	W.	L.	55 for 6—51	68 —76
Old Boys .....	L.	—	44 —68	—
Alsop .....	W.	W.	45 —16	53 —37
Rock Ferry High School ...	D.	L.	78 —54 for 8—56	—94

## COLTS.

Wirral Grammar .....	L.	46—103
St. Edwards .....	L.	43—80

## Rugby Results

Opponents.	Results.			Scores.		
	1st	2nd.	3rd.	1st xv.	2nd xv.	3rd xv.
Hawarden .....	W.	W.	—	22- 7	19- 9	—
Birkenhead School .....	W.	L.	L.	8- 0	2-27	0-28
Grove Park, Wrexham...	W.	—	—	42- 0	—	—
Birkenhead School .....	W.	L.	L.	14- 6	0-54	12-16
Oldershaw G. S. ....	W.	W.	—	9- 0	21- 3	—
Calday Grammar .....	W.	—	—	36- 6	—	—
Park High School .....	W.	L.	L.	26- 6	3-17	11-18
Wirral Grammar .....	W.	L.	—	59- 3	0-20	—
Ruthin School .....	W.	—	—	19- 3	—	—
Park High School .....	—	—	L.	—	—	0-24
Rock Ferry High School.	L.	L.	—	11-17	0-20	—
K. George V. Southport.	L.	L.	L.	13-28	0-20	0-46
Grove Park, Wrexham...	W.	W.	—	32- 3	20- 5	—

## BANTAMS.

Oldershaw Grammar School .....	W.	6—3
Park High School .....	L.	6—9

## Chess Club

WE have been pleased to welcome this term Mr. Drinkwater, who is affording us valuable assistance in our bi-weekly meetings, held on Mondays and Fridays in the Dining Room. The usual Autumn Term Knock-Out Competition has met with enthusiastic support from the younger members, and has caused our meetings to be very well attended.

At the commencement of the term A. A. Smith was appointed Captain and J. B. Goodwin Secretary, but since that time the Secretary has resigned, and his duties are now being carried out by R Macdonald.

Birkenhead Institute has again entered for the Wright Challenge Shield Competition and five games have so far been played. The results are:—

v. Merchant Taylors, Crosby .....	Lost	2 —5.
v. Liverpool Institute .....	Drew	3½—3½.
v. Liverpool College .....	Won	5½—1½.
v. Wallasey Grammar School .....	Lost	1½—4½.
v. Liverpool Collegiate .....	Lost	2 —5.

The School team has suffered greatly by the loss of Horne and James (two of our erstwhile stalwarts), but we hope that the present four regular members of our team—Finch, A. A. Smith, Fayle, and Macdonald—will soon have more reliable support from the new, less experienced members.

An interesting match, at which the Headmaster was present, was played in the Library on Friday, November 21st, when a Staff team beat the School team by 6 games to 2.

As we go to press, we learn that Finch, Fayle, Macdonald, and Smith have been selected to play for West Cheshire Schools v. East Cheshire Schools at Warrington on December 6th, although we believe that Smith's position as Rugby captain precludes his acceptance. We wish our players the best of fortune in their games.

J.G.A.

R.S.T.

## Dramatic Society

THE activities of the Society this term have been confined to frequent visits to the Liverpool theatres, and a large number of boys have taken the opportunity to see some very good productions.

Next term several boys are to take part in Ian Hay's comedy "The Housemaster," a combined presentation with the Old Boys of the School. The dates of the production are March 19th, 20th, and 22nd, and it is hoped that all parents and boys will do their best to make this venture a real success.

L.T.M.

## Scientific Society

IN the centenary celebrations of the Chemical Society held in Dundee this year, it was stated that the modern emphasis was on Applied Science. This has been reflected in our own Society's meetings this season. These, nine to date, consisted of lectures on "Sailing" by G. Evans, R.A.; "Pond Life," by D. J. Maxwell, Adv. I.; "Background of Rugby," by H. M. Turner; Adv. I.; "Stamps," by W. B. Coen, VIs.; "Sailing Ships," by Lane, Va.; and "Racing Motors," by C. Hellon, Adv. I. A Brains Trust was also held, consisting of members of the Advanced, and the motion "That Scientific inventions do more harm than good in modern Society" was debated with the Sixth Form Literary and Debating Society. It is of interest to note that the post war attendance record was raised to 88. The result was a defeat of the motion.

Up to date the attendance at each meeting has never fallen below twenty, which in the circumstances is gratifying. We should like to take this opportunity of reminding readers that the Society welcomes to their meetings all who are interested.

J.D.W.

## Scout Notes

MOST outstanding event since the last appearance of these notes has been our Summer Camp, this year held at Silverdale, N.W. Lancashire, a delightful spot which we first visited as a troop in 1931. With a total of fifteen under canvas, the holiday was most successful, and as well as the usual quota of Scouting games and activities we made trips to Bowness and Ambleside, sailing up Windermere by launch, and to Arnside. Despite rationing difficulties, food was excellent, though the quartermaster received the expected quota of criticism from the younger campers with their insatiable appetites, and with kind weather for most of the time, this first official troop camp since 1941 was an encouraging pointer to the future of the 23rd.

With an influx of new members, we now have twenty-five on the roll, and attendances are approaching the hundred per cent. mark at weekly meetings. This term, under the new scheme we have started a Senior Scout patrol for members over the age of fifteen, and by the end of the school year we shall have to consider the formation of a separate Senior Scout troop.

Now and again, we are pleased to welcome to our meetings former members who have been in the Services. Most recent among them have been Harold Beckett and Dennis Roddick who are now helping with the troop and in the organisation of a Parents' evening which we plan to hold early in the New Year.

We are always pleased to see any of our old members who care to visit us at the School on a Wednesday evening between 7 and 8-30 p.m., and we are hoping that in the very near future we shall be able to arrange a grand re-union for them. "SCOUTER."

## *Old Boys at Universities*

BANGOR—W. E. Liversage (Physics).

CAMBRIDGE—G. S. Smith, B.A., St. John's College (Education); J. Gallagher, B.A., Trinity College (History Research).

CARDIFF—G. Williams (English); P. J. Harris (Mining Engineering).

GLASGOW—J. F. Sudworth (Economics); K. A. Osborn (Geography).

HULL—R. Brymner (Chemistry); P. A. Hosker (English).

LIVERPOOL—W. E. Jones (Chemistry); B. H. Peever (Chemistry); G. G. Badcock, B.Sc. (Chemistry Research); A. J. Scavell (Chemistry Research); F. A. Burls (Engineering); K. I. Smith (English); A. H. Jenks (Law); R. H. Howell (Law); I. S. Melville (Architecture); A. M. Vick (Modern Studies); J. E. Morris (Veterinary Science); I. M. Watkins (Veterinary Science).

LONDON—R. G. Harris, B.A. (Cantab), Imperial College (Chemical Engineering); C. D. Henry, University College Medical School (Dental Surgery); F. M. Owers, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School (Medicine).

MANCHESTER—G. Jones (Economics); J. Posnett (Economics).

OXFORD—E. Somerset Jones, Lincoln College (History); I. Roberts, Magdalen College (History).

SHEFFIELD—R. Davidson (Medicine).

SOUTHAMPTON—J. McFarland (Aeronautical Engineering).

## *Old Boys' Successes*

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL—G. G. Badcock, 1st Class Hons. Chemistry; the Sir J. Wilcocks' Post-Graduate Research Studentship, £250 per annum.

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Ian Melville's lay-out for a Merseyside Exhibition was the "hit" of the Liverpool School of Architecture's exhibition at the Bluecoat Chambers.

## *University Letters*

NO fewer than nine Old Boys in residence at various universities answered our appeal for letters descriptive of student life. Such a generous response, for which we are extremely grateful, has made necessary a wholesale slashing and hacking in order to fit copious material to

the scanty space available in our austerity *Visor*. The Editor trusts that contributors will forgive such treatment, and that they will not on that account turn a deaf ear to his future entreaties.

Instead of whole letters, therefore, we are printing selected excerpts to show some features of university life to-day.

From St. John's College, Cambridge, G. S. Smith writes:—

"Now in my last year I am finding to my astonishment how little of Cambridge I knew before. The truth is that it is only towards the end of his University career that the undergraduate becomes even dimly aware of the work done in the faculties outside his own. The Arts man sees the Scientist, ungowned and purposeful, grimly clutching his slide-rule, striding towards some distant laboratory in the early hours, but beyond an impression of interminable calculations, he has not the remotest idea what he does there. The Scientist, on the other hand, picturing the Arts man as aimlessly attending an occasional lecture between intervals of coffee drinking, frankly cannot understand why he is at the University at all. One meets men from other faculties on social occasions, of course, but nothing would be more *infra dig* than to talk shop about one's work at such times. Thus it is with quite a thrill that the undergraduate eventually realises that one can read for a degree in anthropology if one wishes, clears up in his own mind the distinction between the faculty of Divinity and that of Moral Science, and discovers that a certain obscure building houses the Board of Estate Management."

The effect of austerity on Cambridge life is seen here:—

'This is of course only another indication of the general truth that the undergraduate is becoming more like the ordinary man-in-the-street every day. The writer was in fact taken for a caretaker by a young female student when standing outside a lecture room. The utterly 'preposterous' undergraduate is a comparative rarity nowadays. There are still, of course, the noble few who are willing to assume this rôle on November 5th and Poppy Day, and thus keep up the colourfulness of Cambridge life. Thanks to them, on November 5th, the usual tally of extinguished street lamps, missing policemen's helmets, and arrested undergraduates was again recorded. Perhaps the general change of mood among students is due to the prevailing austerity. The more obvious effects of this are not hard to find. The undergraduate who lives out and breakfasts in hall is now obliged to carry to and fro on his person small packets and screw-topped jars containing his meagre ration of milk, sugar, bread, etc. Potatoes in their "jackets" are now served regularly in hall, and "young gentlemen" and High Table alike are ready to do justice to them, skins and all."

The influence of the ex-service students is referred to by several correspondents, notably G. Jones, who writes from Manchester:—



"This session there are over 3,500 students, an increase on last year's number, which in spite of the addition of new buildings has aggravated the difficult question of accommodation. The prevailing feature is of shortages—one has to queue for everything from chairs in the Union to meals in the Cafeteria. Books are almost unobtainable, and so library copies are in great demand.

We have a large number of ex-Service men forming a large proportion of the students, who are a steadying influence on the younger generation who are straight up from school. These ex-Service men are too keen on studying and so the authorities have recently appealed to them to work less and to pay more attention to the many Student societies. There is little of the youthful exuberance traditionally coupled with the idea of students, the majority being content to have an ecstatic fling on Hospital Rag Day."

F. M. Owers finds that there is more work than play at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, but he also writes with evident appreciation of the facilities provided for the playing of Rugby football.

"A thing that struck me was that the extreme high spiritedness that one reads about so much in books, particularly occurring among medical students, is almost non-existent. I suppose that is because to fail an exam. twice means expulsion from the medical school. This was never so before the war, when a certain amount of slacking was permissible.

I found the method of teaching with its two or three one-hour lectures a day very different from school, and I have only now become accustomed to it.

Even with the ever present threat of "vivas" and with exams to keep him busy, Jack is certainly not a dull boy at Mary's. There are numerous clubs to belong to, ranging from Squash Racquet Club to Shooting Club. There is even a Mountaineering Club. By far the most popular pastime, however, is Rugby football.

K. I. Smith at the University of Liverpool notes that in spite of change the life at a university has not undergone any complete transformation.

"To the returning ex-service student the essentials of University life, the regular round of lectures, societies, teas, dances, committees, sport, seems to have changed very little. Most have found that the intervening period has left a legacy of disconcerting gaps in the memory, necessitating a rather uncomfortable amount of extra work. There are, it is true, superficial differences to be seen. There is an unusual juxtaposition of the older and the younger. The older seems a little more interested, it may be, in passing examinations than formerly: having had a taste of extra-mural life they feel, perhaps, that the world of "getting and spending" is a little alarming in its imminence, a circumstance which one must consider as

having good as well as lamentable aspects. But fundamentally neither the academic nor the social atmosphere has changed. It appears that a far more radical social upheaval is necessary to disturb the roots of University life than a war or evanescent crisis."

We owe an apology to I. Roberts of Magdalen College, Oxford, because, again owing to shortage of space, his long letter had to be excluded from our July issue. We take from his letter a description of an unusual "type":—

"The general tone of the University is serious, reflecting the sense of responsibility felt by students back from the wars, but from this crowd of rather sober-minded men, there still emerge a few personalities of the more colourful type. The colours sometimes clash, some cry aloud harshly, others dazzle, but still there are some which charm by their quietness. I saw a man yesterday in the High: with bare feet showing through his canvas sandals, the bottom of his trouser legs, not turned up, well above his ankles, his greying hair topped by a hat shallow as a boater. He had the true air of a card, jaunty, a cane under his arm, and a copy of the Yellow Book, perhaps, in his hand. Not quite sure, yet, what to think of Aubrey Beardsley, he managed to give the impression of ignoring completely the very existence of the dreadful petrol-driven monsters which roared at him from all directions."

E. S. Jones, also at Oxford, Lincoln College, welcomes the change to more normal conditions, after the Services:

"The change from Service life to life at the University is rather drastic, and it is startling to find how slowly one's mind wakes into its normal functions after having been for so long a mere machine running at a slow tick-over in response to orders. I think however that there are few men here who consider the change in status to be anything but for the better. Work is taken perhaps a little more seriously than it was under the strained conditions subsisting during the War; but it is a relief to find that the lighter side of life is still by no means neglected."

From the University of Glasgow K. A. Osborn records a little of the light side of a student's life:—

"The monthly 'Parliamentary Debate' is one of the most attractive of the evening meetings. There are several political clubs in the University, each of which in turn assumes the responsibility of government. The meeting takes place in a House modelled on its famous prototype at Westminster, and a Bill is introduced by the Government speakers. Another of the parties forms H.M. Opposition, while the remainder are congregated on their respective party benches. But members are more easily identified by their clothing. Kilts are prominent among the Scottish Nationalists; the Communists sport red ties; and shamrock-green ties are evident in the

Distributist ranks. The debate is, as a rule, so lively and interesting that the division and subsequent adjournment do not take place until the early hours of the following morning.

Three weeks ago we held an election for our Lord Rector. The candidates were Mr. Walter Elliott, Mr. Tom Johnston, James Bridie, and David Niven. There was a surprising lack of enthusiasm among the women students for David Niven, in spite of the publication of propaganda photographs, and consequently Mr. Elliott was elected for the three years' term. In Election week a series of speeches were given in support of the candidates, and these were, as might be expected, somewhat boisterous. Any lack in the quality of the heckling was certainly compensated for by the quantity. On Election Day voters had to run the gauntlet of rotten fruit and bags of soot in order to register their votes."

P. J. Harris, who is a member of the Cardiff University College, records his surprised failure to find coal mines in the city centre of Cardiff, where on the contrary he found some most impressive buildings. He gives us welcome news of two other O.B.'s:—

"The Cross-Country Club numbers two Welsh International runners in its ranks, one of whom, Geraint Williams, is an Old Boy of the School. Bill Bryden is in Cardiff and is at present on the staff of the Agricultural Advisory department. Many of you will remember him."

C. D. Henry of King's College Hospital Dental School, London, appears to enjoy his new sphere:—

"As for *giving* my impressions of life at hospital, I might venture to say that a large amount of my time is occupied in *taking* impressions. This is due to the fact that whenever I am not attending lectures I work at Dental Mechanics. This is extremely interesting, consisting of making dentures, bars, and other dental appliances, accompanied by a considerable amount of burning and filing of one's fingers.

Thinking back on my School days, I now no longer wait in terror for the master who I know will demand my as yet unfinished homework, and with this thought in mind a frantic attempt is made to rectify this error. The position now, however, is still somewhat similar, in that I work uneasily with ears strained to listen for the telephone bell which will be to announce that my patient has arrived and is waiting upstairs for me—but not only for me; because he will expect his set of dentures to be ready, and they are at this moment lying in my hands still uncompleted"!

### **Old Instonians R.F.C.**

**A**FTER our successful post-war re-opening last season it is disappointing to record a rather dismal run of defeats this year. Whilst excuses

should never be tolerated, we must mention that, owing to Service and business calls, only four of last season's side are now playing regularly. Here is the Club's record to date:—

	P.		W.		D.		L.
1st XV. ....	12	...	1	...	1	...	10
2nd XV. ....	11	...	7	...	0	...	4
3rd XV. ....	3	...	0	...	0	...	3

A series of adverse results is the inevitable temporary lot of every club in turn, but the recent arrival of new members leads us to think that we shall be in a position to put up a better show in the New Year.

We are sorry to report that we have had to scratch some 3rd XV. games owing to an unexpected shortage of playing members, but this position, too, is rapidly improving, and we have a comprehensive fixture list for the remainder of the season.

It's encouraging for us to hear about the excellent season the School XV's. are enjoying this year. Our heartiest congratulations and our best wishes for remaining games!

We do hope that all you rugby enthusiasts will continue to interest yourselves in the doings of the Old Instonians. You are the Club's players and officials of the near future, and there is lots to be done in improving our playing strength, fixture list, finances, and social functions. We cordially invite all boys leaving School this year to attend our General Meeting at the close of the present season—we will let you know the exact date later on.

C.K.C.

## Old Boys' Dramatic Society

OUR last production, "I killed the Count," by Alec Coppel, proved to be a social and financial success. This was partly due to the good support we received from the School, and to the salesmanship of the school-boy members of the Society. To the boys from the School who helped in any capacity with the show we give our hearty thanks, and trust they will help us again. We would also like to thank all Old Boys who sold tickets for us and gave us their very welcome support.

"The Housemaster," a comedy by Ian Hay, will be our next production. This goes "on the boards" at the Y.M.C.A. Theatre on Friday, Saturday, and Monday, March 19th, 20th, and 22nd. Do keep those dates in mind and one of those nights free. Watch out for further publicity!

The Society would welcome any Old Boy interested in Dramatics. Experience is not essential; enthusiasm is our keynote!

J. C., Secretary.