

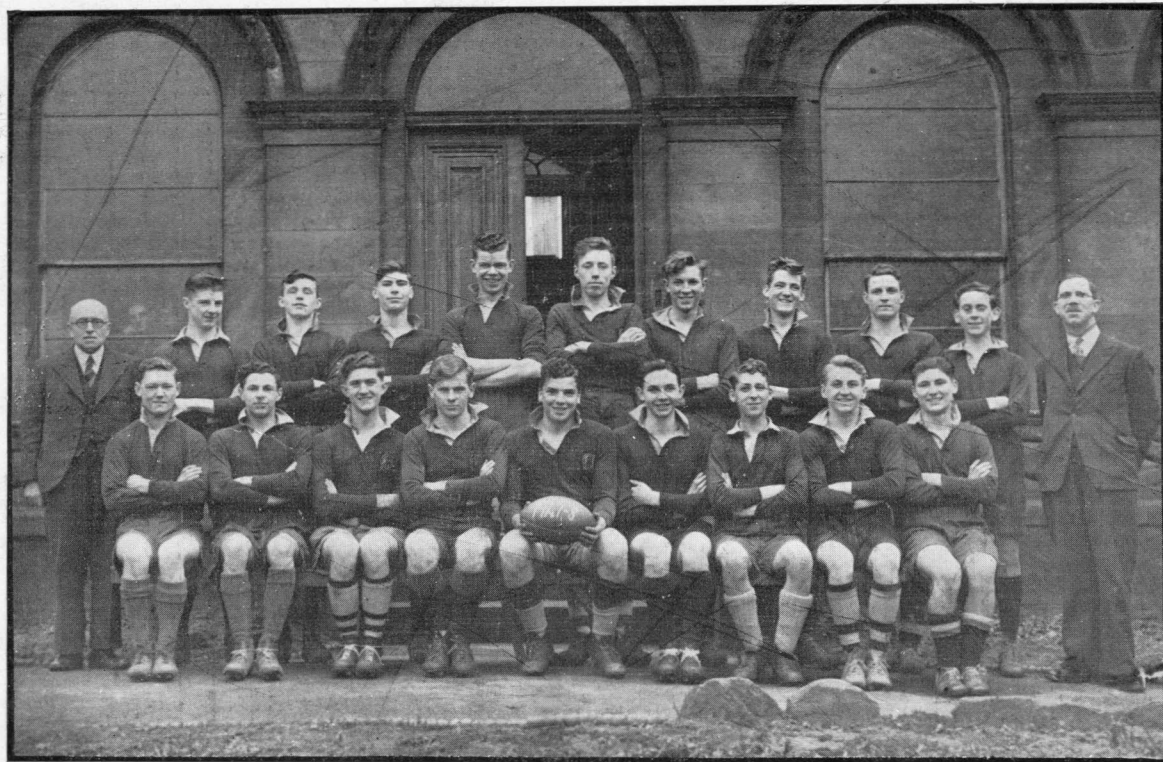
THE VISOR



BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE
SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

SUMMER, 1948.

1st XV. 1947-8



W. H. LLOYD, J. W. KEARNEY, R. F. HARTLEY, R. E. WRIGHT, V. L. SMITH, M. SMITH, A. CARTER, G. M. DICKSON, D. O. JONES.
A. RIXON. H. M. TURNER, K. B. FINCH, D. D. J. SILCOCK, A. A. SMITH (Capt.), T. H. GILL, H. N. TAYLOR, A. POWELL, G. A. HIPKIN.

Photo by Cull.



School Calendar

Spring Term began	Monday, January 5th.
Half Term	February 12th—17th.
Spring Term ended	Wednesday, March 24th.
Summer Term began	Monday, April 12th.
Half Term	May 14th—24th.
Summer Term ends	Thursday, July 22nd.
Autumn Term begins	Monday, September, 6th.

Editorial

IT would be an affectation on the part of the *Visor* to seem to ignore the wide publicity given to the *Institute* and its future during the early months of this year and since our last number appeared. So many great changes have been made in the world of education that the general public might well have gained the impression that the revolution was made necessary by abuses, that previous to 1944 our schools, like the introduction to Haydn's "Creation," were "a representation of chaos." But this revolution was inspired not from below but from above; and from the point of view of the older secundar schools in this county would hardly seem to have been necessary on the acid test of whether they were doing worthily what they had been established to do. Perhaps the greatest interest aroused locally over the Institute was, first, in a proposed alteration of the name of the School, and, second, in the problem of its future government. As no one appeared to accept paternity for the former idea, this founding speedily perished, and we are not sure that any past or present members of the School will regret that the title *Grammar School* did not supplant that of *Institute*. Under this name—one that recalls nineteenth century struggles to break down privilege and exclusiveness in English education—the School has made its reputation. The very name has history in it, where the term 'public school' has little or none. So in spite of all temptations we remain at the end of our first sixty years, and at the threshold of many more, under the old title. The second question involved the future government of the School. Were we to be Crown Colony, Mandate, Dominion, or merely Occupied territory? The old Board of Governors disappears. and the School now comes under the direct control

of the Education Committee, pursuing its way as before, as a secondary school. It is worth pointing out, as the Mayor reminded us on his welcome visit to the Institute in May, that we were founded to give the best academic and professional education without any bias towards class or grade, or wealth. The "new look" in Education, as in dress, is merely a going back half-a-century after all, and the Institute has been doing for sixty years what the conventionally styled "great Act of 1944" presented as a startling novelty. So long as the School remains true to its origin, it will always furnish a sound education, whatever its title or administration.

As for our present members, all these controversies have been like theatrical 'noises off.' They continue on their way, in the class rooms, in School Societies, on the field, largely indifferent to the sound and the fury. The sublimity of their unconcern proves that schools are not made, nor made different from each other, by schedules and administrations, but by those who live in them, by their work and their play, their personalities and future careers. These activities have always been well mirrored in the *Visor*, which we hope will continue to flourish as the expression of our manifold life, undisturbed by the changes and chances of the times.

Obituary

We record with great regret the death of Mr. Frederick Edge on May 31st after a long period of suffering. Mr. Edge joined the Staff in July 1946 as Woodwork Master. Though he taught several other subjects, his work lay mainly in the Woodwork Shop, where he quickly established himself as a first-class teacher. He had long and varied experience of this type of work both in industry and evening classes, having prepared pupils for the recognised examinations for many years. His pupils will remember him as an enthusiastic teacher with a fund of out of the way knowledge, on natural history in particular. The Staff will greatly miss his cheerful personality and his unfailing willingness to help a colleague at whatever cost to himself. No one talking to Mr. Edge would have suspected that he was in the grip of a cruel and malignant illness. It was typical of him that he kept his troubles in the background and presented to the world a bright and friendly personality. We can never know what this cost him in courage and endurance. He is and will be greatly missed.

Salvete

Harrison, E. G.; Owen, R. G.; Roberts, J. V.

Valete

Burrows, J. A.; Hallowell, B.; Jeffers, Wm. S.; Jones, C.; Jones, R. M.; Kay, P. A.; Lewis, P. J.; Manly, J. E. W.; Marshall, A. H.; McDonald, M. K.; Rixon, A.; Watters, I. G.; Woodfine, N. A.

Athletic Sports, 1948

We were unfortunate this year in having to postpone the sports twice. They were originally intended for Thursday, June 3rd, but rain prevented them from being held. Friday was next decided upon, but again the weather was against us. Finally, Tuesday was selected, and after a rainy morning it cleared up, and the sports were held in the afternoon. The condition of the ground and a strong wind, however, prevented any new records from being set up which, under more favourable conditions, might have been made.

We are very grateful indeed to Mrs. Yates for three times coming to present the prizes. This she did and then congratulated the competitors on their afternoon's performance.

Our thanks are due to those parents and friends who despite the short notice turned up to witness the events and especially to all those who by their generous and ready response to our appeals, made it possible for us to give three prizes in the events.

The following is the list of prize-winners :

Senior Cross Country: K. Grantham, G. Jones, A. Fayle.

Junior Cross Country: J. C. Worrall, W. C. Weir, D. Muldoon.

Long Jump (Open): G. M. Dickson, H. M. Turner, D. J. Silcock.

Long Jump (under 14): A. Boden, J. H. Auld, R. Turner.

High Jump (Open): H. M. Turner, W. H. Lloyd.

High Jump (under 14): M. J. Mitchell, W. C. Weir.

Throwing the Cricket Ball (Open): A. A. Smith, A. Carter.

Throwing the Cricket Ball (under 14): N. N. Jones, N. Stephens.

Drop Kick (Open): G. M. Dickson.

100 yds. (under 13): R. Turner, E. F. McAteer, N. Stephens.

100 yds. (under 14): W. C. Weir, J. H. Auld, A. Boden.

100 yds. (under 15): R. A. Dawson, M. R. Carby, D. N. Beardwell.

100 yds. (Open): W. H. Lloyd, H. M. Turner.

220 yds. (over 15): W. H. Lloyd, M. R. Carby.

220 yds. (under 13): A. G. Roberts, W. J. Longton, R. Turner.

220 yds. (under 15): A. Parkinson, D. N. Beardwell.

220 yds. (Open): G. A. Hipkin, G. M. Dickson.

440 yds (Open): A. A. Smith, D. M. Henharen, H. M. Turner.
 440 yds. (Handicap): R. A. Dawson, A. Boden, W. J. Longton.
 Open Mile: K. Grantham, A. Fayle, J. K. Sedman.
 60 yds. Sack Race (under 14): A. Parkinson. D. Stokes, D. M. Mathieson.
 80 yds. Sack Race (over 14): C. Boardman, J. Kitching, J. Ledsome.
 Relay Race (Open): R. F. Hartley's team with Kitching, Dawson, Tector.
 House Relay Race (Junior): Tate House team: Weir, Auld, McAteer Muldoon.
 House Relay Race (Intermediate): Stitt House team: Dawson, Beardwell, Noonan, Williams.
 House Relay Race (Senior): Stitt House: Turner, Hartley, Dickson, Hipkin.
 Three Legged Handicap (under 14): Lee and Whitehead. Auld and Mitchell, Watt and Russell.
 Three Legged Handicap (Open): Watters and Worrall, Goodwin and Henharen, Nash and Smith.
 Obstacle Race (under 14): F. C. Elliot, W. C. Weir, F. McKie.
 Obstacle Race (over 14): C. Boardman, A. W. Otter, R. Carter.
 880 yds. Handicap: G. Jones, T. A. Dodd, N. Hughes.
 Open Tug of-War: R. E. P. Wright's team with Ridgsway, Edwards, Thomas, Brown, Kelly, Wood, Moore.
 Consolation Race (under 14): D. Muldoon, R. B. Owen, R. J. Gaffikin.
 Consolation Race (over 14): J. R. Morris, C. G. Adams, R. M. Lloyd.
 House Tug of-War: Tate House team: Meggs, A. A. Smith, V. L. Smith, Weir, Thompson, Edwards, Johnston, Derrick.
 Junior Victor Ludorum: W. C. Weir with 7 points.
 Victor Ludorum (for the second year in succession): H. M. Turner with 9 points.
 Champion House: 1. Stitt with 69 points. 2. Tate (39). 3. Westminster (36). 4. Atkin (35).

Staff Match

On Thursday evening, June 17th, the School 1st XI. played a team composed of members of the Staff assisted by a few Old Boys, and after a keen and enjoyable game ran out winners by 4 wickets. The Masters batting first, scored 77, S. Thacker making 31 and Mr. Webb 12. For the School, V. L. Smith (5 for 23) and Dickson (4 for 12) bowled well. When the School batted, in failing light, Taylor played a nice innings (17 not out) and V. L. Smith hit a lusty 15. Mr. Webb bowled well and took 3 wickets for 31 runs. A tribute must be paid to the School fielding, which was keen and steady throughout.

Cross-Country Run, 1948

The Cross Country run took place on Friday, May 14th, in brilliant sunshine. There were very good entries for both the Senior and the Junior Races.

The Junior race, over a distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, had 82 entries, and was won by J. C. Worrall of Westminster, W. C. Weir of Tate coming in second, and D. Muldoon of Tate third.

The Senior race, over a distance of $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, had 78 entries and was won by K. Grantham of Stitt, with G. Jones of Tate coming second, and A. Fayle of Stitt third. Grantham must be heartily congratulated on breaking the previous record by 2 minutes, running the $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles in 33 minutes 13.8 secs.

All Competitors who finished must be congratulated, for conditions, owing to the heat, were by no means ideal.

The final positions of the Houses were:—

JUNIOR RACE. 1st Atkin, 2nd Westminster, 3rd Tate.

SENIOR RACE. 1st Atkin, 2nd Westminster, 3rd Tate.

Inter School Sports

At the Inter School Sports held at Port Sunlight on May 8th, representatives of the Institute achieved considerable success. Out of 12 events, our boys secured places in 10, thus gaining second place in the whole competition with 15 points. It should be noted that each school competitor was allowed to run in only one event (excluding relay races). In the Senior Championship Events, W. H. Lloyd was first in the 100 yds; W. Thompson second in the Long Jump; D. M. Henharen third in the 220; Hipkin third in the 440; and G. Jones fourth in the 880 yds. races. R. F. Hartley was placed third in the High Jump. R. A. Dawson secured first place in the Junior Championship 100 yds., while J. Rollins was third in the Long Jump. The School's teams (Hartley, Henharen, Hipkin, Lloyd) came third in the Senior Relay, and second (Bearsley, Dawson, Kirchner, Rollins) in the Junior.

Music Miscellany

The first visit of the School to the Philharmonic Hall, took place on the afternoon of Friday, June 4th. After a journey which caused the Staff many headaches, the School assembled at 2-15 in the Hall. On this occasion the orchestra which was conducted by Dr. Jacques gave a concert, which consisted of Overture "Oberon" by Weber, "Minuet and Trio" from Symphony No. 39 in E flat by Mozart, Movements from the "Nutcracker Suite" by Tchaikovsky. and Overture "William Tell" by Rossini. Dr. Jacques gave very interesting talks on each of the works performed and the orchestra played very well.

The venture seemed to be a success and it seems that many boys would like another visit to the Philharmonic Hall. It is only by regular visits that music can be made interesting.

The Mayor's Visit

On Friday, April 23rd, His Worship the Mayor paid a visit to the School. The boys and the Staff assembled in the Hall and gave the Mayor a hearty welcome when he was introduced by the Headmaster.

He spoke first of his long connection with the School and said that the quality of the pupils of this School past and present was equal to that of any other school in the town. He went on to talk about Birkenhead as a port, and of its development from early times. The Mayor compared its natural advantages with those of Liverpool, and the "bright sparks" of local geography looked very interested. The town, in the Mayor's opinion, had a great future, as it possessed a unique combination of fine seaside resorts nearby, a capacity for industrial expansion, and a good bracing climate.

Obviously, familiarity had bred contempt among most of the boys, for the Mayor's assertions concerning the beauty of Meols and New Brighton, and the quality of the air near St. Stephen's Church were received with some dubiousness.

Throughout, the Mayor's talk was interesting and enjoyable, and, though a half-holiday was not forthcoming, he was warmly applauded on concluding.

Before leaving the building, the Mayor went round several forms and showed the boys his chain of office. This is the nearest most of them will get to the coveted insignia.

Correction

We regret that the name of R. F. Macdonald was omitted from the list of successful candidates in the July 1947 School Certificate Examination.

Mind - Broadening

I take my departure amid tears and cries of anguish. The former are accompanied by broad smiles of delight, and the latter are in mourning for my absent-mindedness—forgetting my passport and all that. After returning home to take two more departures, I finally succeed in reaching first Central Station, Birkenhead, and then Lime Street, Liverpool, with nothing else to remember.

The journey from Liverpool to London is tedious enough but at last we reach Euston. I get out of the train, remember my case, and go back for it, battling bravely through a barrage of humanity. A man

wishes to know the nature of my task, and calls me something it is my duty to forget. By now I am badly shaken, and it not surprising that only after three attempts do I discover Charing Cross and Victoria.

I am bitterly disappointed that I cannot go by the "Golden Arrow", but a kindly old porter assures me that the Newhaven-Dieppe train is every bit as good. But, of course, this is only salesmanship.

At the barrier I am obliged to show my passport to a policeman, who, like the Foreign Secretary, dislikes it, and he displays his emotions by grunting at it. My seat and compartment are indicated by a numbered ticket, which is an unfortunate happening for one of my fated fellow passengers, who promptly takes to strolling along the corridor. I spend the first hour of this stage of the journey in stealing glances at the other passengers and turning to admire a passing cow whenever I am found out, the next hour in testing my dogged French by making silly remarks about the passing scenery to a Frenchwoman, and the rest of the journey in biting denunciation of France and its inhabitants. Where France is real, I say, it is dirty, and where it is clean, it is artificial. I tell the Frenchwoman how effeminate Frenchmen are and how silly French etiquette is. My compatriot in the next seat nods his head in agreement as my fury rises to its peak and I denounce the French on having absolutely no sense. I might have gone further, but the train draws into the port of Newhaven. The Frenchwoman is laughing hysterically, and she tells me to wait until I see France.

For the passport examination foreigners and British subjects are separated by notices in English and French, together with a policeman for the benefit of the blind. I feel like a thief about to be searched as I join the queue for the customs examination. A young officer, who wears a perfect example of a sardonic smile asks me, a poor, timid, little boy, if I have any arms, jewelry, spirits, or more than 200 cigarettes. The comic in me makes me say that I have got arms, but his smile neither fades nor increases. He must have heard it before. He puts a kiss on my case with his chalk and lets me go to rush on the boat to become the latest addition to the queue for lunch.

I regard my first French meal with considerable awe and apprehension. I first observe the methods of the composed French travellers and then make my plunge. It needs all the courage I can command to go through with this ordeal, in which the delicacies are too delicate, and in which my stomach is too weak for the other dishes.

Outnumbered, I have to show a liking for some French customs and characteristics. These brave people who are my table-companions must be admired for their courage in taking this meal with a smile and accepting my French unflinchingly. They have a pronounced sense of humour, but the rapidity of their tongues is a severe handicap to my comprehension of it. I smile my way through the innumerable jokes and repartees, only to be caught napping when I am asked questions.

Impatient for the arrival at Dieppe, I take to walking round the deck. My fellow-travellers consist of a wonderful mixture of Englishmen and Frenchmen. At first I view the Frenchmen's golf-trousers, shorts, sandals, white socks, hip-length flying jackets, and bright shirts and ties with a conservative tinge of disgust. As my mind broadens with travel I become accustomed to the glare, and I finish the voyage with ideas of revolutionising England. I am beginning to concede that the French have their fine points, and now it is the pudding-like faces of my compatriots that are the objects of my disgust.

An official on board comes to tear out the second of my book of tickets in return for a landing-ticket, which I give to another official at the foot of the gangway, which is supported by admiring policemen.

The first thing I do on French soil is to join the queue for the passport and customs examinations. The French Customs Officer is either pushed for time or very trusting. He merely asks if I have anything to declare, I say "No," and there I am with two kisses on my case.

I am at once whirled off my feet by a gentleman with a passion for carrying suitcases. A desperate effort to protest in French fails completely. I stumble over the pronouns and I am at my seat, dipping my hands in my pockets, before I can recover.

My remarks, even those about the speed, or lack of it, noise and dust of the train, have become tolerant. People may glare at me from open French windows without comment from me. Open-air diners gain nothing worse than a puckering frown. I make only a mild surmise upon the sex of the cattle which yield no milk to Parisians. I even go as far as to concede that some of the French seems to be as good as the English. And I grow fond of some French customs, such as using the Present Tense for the Perfect occasionally. I do not want to mention the meal I have, so as not to appear a sadist.

At last Paris comes, and I catch an occasional glimpse of the Eiffel Tower. Hoardings demand that I vote Communist. Trains appear from the "Metro" for a breath of fresh air. We draw into the Gare St. Lazare. I remember the advice of behaving as Parisians do when in Paris and precipitate myself on the platform to re-encounter my correspondante.

What more can I say?

Vive la France!

G. M.

Reflections on the First Day at School

WHEN first we came with satchels and with rule,

To learn of things in store for us at school;

We quailed in fear beneath the master's frown,

And trembled at the swishing of his gown.

Of masters' nicknames learned we not a few;

Of Moggie, Jake, and Jerry, and of Wew;

And also, 'ere the morning bell had gone,
 We heard of that dread personage, the ———.
 The break we welcomed, when we all did meet
 To question further that which was a "dete."
 To each a House was given, and 'tis true
 The various qualities of Red and Blue
 Were argued till the ending of the day,
 When homeward we did make our weary way.
 Did I say weary? What I meant was that
 We rushed home breathless, eager, waving hat,
 And told our tales of school without emotion,
 While mothers proud gazed on with deep devotion.

Of later years. howe'er, our zest hath cooled,
 In many tricks and pranks have we been schooled,
 The masters now, (of former deity)
 Appear to us as nigh senility.
 Our thoughts, on leaving, doubtless will have changed
 (Because o'er many subjects they have ranged)
 The School will then appear in purest light,
 The warnings of the Staff we'll see aright,
 And we will leave, our reference in hand,
 To seek our fortune in our native land.

R. M.

Shipbuilding at Cammell Laird's—Part 3

(continued from last issue).

(4) THE INFLUENCE OF THE PAST IN THE PRESENT.

(a) INITIATIVE.

Iron shipbuilding was established in this district by William Laird, who in 1824 built a shipyard on the shores of Wallasey Pool near the present Vittoria Street. By 1840 he had built 32 vessels, every one in its own way a pioneer. In doing this he had trained a new kind of work man, had brought a new element into the economic and social life of Merseyside, had braved and overcome the whole weight of adverse contemporary technical opinion, and had finally received the favourable notice of the British Admiralty, whose confidence the present firm continue to hold. This early tradition of initiative and efficiency has been maintained and enhanced. The company has to its credit many recent successes like the *Mauretania* (reputed to be almost completely free from vibration) and the *Ark Royal*, and is alive to future possibilities like stream lining. It has also accumulated a great field of experience on the commercial side of the industry, still a field for venturesome finance.

(b) CAPITAL.

Shipbuilding is a highly capitalised business. It is very costly to build offices, mould lofts, power houses, forges, pattern shops, plate shops, boiler shops, saw mills, shops for carpenters, joiners, plumbers and electricians, berths keel blocks, graving docks and fitting out basins, and once this equipment is provided it is difficult, expensive, or impossible to move elsewhere.

(c) SKILL.

By 1900 the sailing ship had virtually disappeared, and the iron ship had everywhere been replaced by that of steel. In every way the industry has since become more complex, with exceptional dependence on technicians and on many kinds of craftsmen whose work must dovetail. Birkenhead, as a result, now houses a reservoir of shipbuilding skill, the greatest reservoir of industrial skill on Merseyside.

It would be a difficult task—even supposed they wished to go—to remove these skilled workers and their families elsewhere. We can say, therefore, that shipbuilding attracts skill, and that skill (in time) attracts shipbuilding.

(d) OTHER INFLUENCES.

Other circumstances, due to the early start of this industry, combine to support its present location.

Liverpool is a great port; any great port tends to attract ship-repairers, and ship building needs many of the same kind of craftsmen as ship repairing.

Industries ancillary to shipbuilding have developed in or near Birkenhead, as for example the boat building of Messrs. Rutherford in Bridge Street, and the propeller casting industry of the Manganese Bronze and Brass Company of Dock Road, Seacombe.

While Cammell Laird's train their own apprentice craftsmen, facilities for theoretical education in shipbuilding are given at the Holt Technical College, Tranmere, and in the Faculty of Engineering in the University of Liverpool, where naval architecture (ship design) is one of the subjects which can be studied. The need for a highly qualified technical staff is obvious; each ship presents its own problems, and shipbuilding practice, in Britain and abroad, is always on the look out for new methods.

(5) THE PROBLEM OF ALTERNATING BOOM AND SLUMP.

The prosperity of the industry depends in the long run on circumstances outside the control of the company. When world trade is booming freights are high, greater travelling facilities are in demand, new tonnage is required, and the yards are prosperous. War time brings a comparable prosperity. When world trade slumps, the ship-building industry is always one of the first to be adversely affected, for shipowners will not buy ships which can earn them no dividend. Nor will any firm build them in anticipation of a forthcoming demand.

Ships differ widely from each other in the purposes for which they are used, and so in tonnage and design. They are costly, and building to forestall a boom would prove, therefore, a highly speculative enterprise. They are bulky, requiring much space for their construction and storage, and they could not be "stored" (or laid up) without depreciation. They are individual structures, for technical as well as economic reasons much more difficult to produce in mass than aeroplane, automobile or locomotive. The plant used to build them is highly specialised, and in times of economic difficulty cannot easily be used for any other purpose. Hence shipbuilding, fortunate in its relatively high wages, is unfortunate in its sensitiveness to general prosperity and depression. During the lean years before the war, only the most fortunate were retained in the yard or found work on the Clyde or Tyne, in Barrow or Belfast, for all shipbuilding areas have essentially the same employment structure. For the most part, Birkenhead's craftsmen lived in poverty in the town where sometime, they hoped, their skill might be needed, or they migrated elsewhere where their skill could not be used.

(6) AND THE POSSIBLE LINES OF A SOLUTION TO IT.

In 1931, there were 1500 shipyard workers employed in Birkenhead; in 1946 there were eight or ten times that number. The boom-slump element in the town's economy is clearly a major problem, and a challenge whose implications must be faced.

Is the town really inflated on the shipbuilding side? Is the yard carrying too much equipment for normal business? Has it really been constructed to achieve a war-time peak not possible in peace time? Did it achieve, as South Lancashire did with cotton, an importance at one period of history which it cannot now maintain in face of world forces? Only very careful enquiry could answer these questions adequately.

An instructive analogy can, however, be drawn between shipbuilding and the aircraft industry. In time of war the former must be capable of rapid expansion, and for this there must be a transfer of labour from another industry, the motor industry. With the coming of peace the motor industry may be expected to re-absorb the labour taken from it by the aircraft industry.

The shipbuilding industry resembles the aircraft industry in its importance to national strategy, and in the war-time necessity for its rapid expansion. It differs from it in having no peace-time industry which can be regarded as its war-time feeder. A metal assembly industry such as the making of steel furniture could perhaps fulfil this need. Its establishment in Birkenhead might well afford that measure of economic stability so desirable in this town in the interests of human welfare.

J. E. ALLISON.

(with acknowledgments to Mr. E. Sutton, Chief Designer, Messrs. Cammell Laird and Co.)



THE Mayor's speech seems to have upset Westminster House considerably, and they lost some ground to the red Tate House in a pull this term.

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M. Joubert who came to the School in September, 1947, will return to Paris this summer after teaching French for a year and at the same time learning a new version of that language not often heard in his native land.

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On May 5th, we were visited by two French Scouts. Some say there is well a possibility that they may have comprehended our French.

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The Cross Country run this year broke all records for the numbers who turned out for the Senior and Junior events. The record for the Senior Run of $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles was broken by nearly two minutes. Only four boys failed to finish the course. It seems that school meals, free milk, and limited rations at home are improving the speed and stamina of the modern schoolboy.

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Never before have there been so many students in the Upper VI. to set an example to the younger scholars. And never before have there been so many juvenile delinquents in the III's.

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What is meant when the Headmaster insists upon his wish to see Fayle, of 6s, without Fayle is not fully understood.

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There is a growing agitation in the unprivileged ranks of the School for Soccer in favour of Rugby. The agitators are whispering (so as to keep their agitation secret) that 90 per cent. of the School would prefer Soccer. Such positive preferences are rare. There must be quite a dozen subjects the "unprivileged" would prefer *not* to have.

Evidence is accumulating that the new Dining Hall will yet be ready by Christmas. Some optimists seem to think that we shall be having our sumptuous meals there even before the Christmas turkey is ready for the table.

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There are no grounds for the belief that the cleaning of the windows was timed to give the Mayor a clear view of our beautiful grounds. Surely he would have been more interested in the names of Old Boys inscribed in the dust.

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What would the Headmaster have to say on the last day of the term if everyone was late and absent?

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We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the Holt School Magazine, the Caldeian (Calday Grange Grammar School) and the White Rose (King George School, Southport).

Rugby, 1947 — 8

Oldershaw	H	A	—	A	W	W	—	W	9-6	11-0	—	11-0
Kirkby T.C.	H	—	—	—	W	—	—	—	28-8	—	—	—
King George V... ..	H	A	H	—	L	L	—	—	9-19	0-39	8-38	—
Park H.S.	A	H	A	H	W	L	L	W	12-3	6-9	0-9	12-3
St. Mary's	A	H	A	—	W	L	L	—	19-8	0-24	8-14	—
Ruthin	A	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	0-0	—	—	□
Rock Ferry	H	A	—	—	W	W	L	—	16-0	5-19	—	—
Wirral G.S.	A	H	—	—	W	W	D	—	11-3	3-3	—	—
Hawarden	H	A	—	—	W	W	L	—	88-0	0-5	—	—
St. Edwards ...	—	—	—	H	W	—	—	—	L	—	—	0-17

The continued success of the 1st XV this term has resulted in the most successful season in the School's history. They have scored 520 points and have had only 153 scored against them in 25 matches. In the last game of the season, they set up a record by scoring 88 points without reply against Hawarden Grammar School. Special mention must be made of Hartley, a sound and hard-tackling full-back. Lloyd, Kearney, Dickson and Turner formed a fast-moving and penetrative three-quarter line. Dickson's goal kicking was always sound and often brilliant. Smith A. at stand-off has combined well with Jones D. O. and later Rixon at scrum half, but it was obvious that the real strength of the team lay in the forwards. Dominant in the line-outs, in which Smith V. L., Wright R. E. P., and Silcock excelled, the pack soon settled down, and, with Silcock hooking at his best, became a really efficient eight. Although the composition had to be changed often, the team spirit, so noticeable last term, was again in evidence, and was the main reason for the team's success.

The record of the 2nd XV is not so good, mainly because the team was so unsettled and had very little training as a team. Goodwin was an able and reliable captain—in addition to being the Club Secretary.

The Bantams XV played with increasing enthusiasm and began to show some improvement and promise, under the enthusiastic guidance of R. E. P. Wright.

A. A. S.

Cricket

We can record a fairly successful season to date. The batting has been good on occasions but is inconsistent. The bowling has been much better, with a fast opening attack and several good change bowlers to follow. The fielding has not been up to our usual standard, and this must be corrected at once. Although we shall not win every game, we have repeated last year's success in the Staff match.

The 2nd XI have not yet had time to settle down as a team and further practice is obviously necessary.

The Colts are quite promising and their keenness is an encouraging sign.

Chess Club

There has not been much activity in the Chess Club this term, though several interesting events have taken place. Mr. Thynne, the "Alekhine of the Institute," gave a demonstration of his ability by more than holding his own against 20 members of the club in a simultaneous display. He lost 1 game, drew 3 games and won 16 games.

The following are the results of the matches played by the School Club in the Wright Shield Competition earlier in the year:—

	Result	Games	Lost	Drawn
v. Merchant Taylors:.....	Lost	2	5	x
v. Liverpool Institute:.....	Drawn	3	3	1
v. Liverpool College:.....	Won	5	1	1
v. Liverpool Collegiate:.....	Lost	2	5	x
v. Wallasey Grammar:.....	Lost	1	4	2
v. Birkenhead School:.....	Lost	2	4	1
v. Alsop High School:.....	Won	5	2	x
v. Holt High School:.....	Lost	2	5	x

The School finished 8th in the final table:

In three friendly matches the School team defeated Wirral Grammar School by 7 games to 3, drew 5—5 with Calday Grammar School, and lost 2½—7½ to the same School in a return match.

In School Competitions, the senior forms have taken the honours. In the Inter-Form Knock-Out Competition, the Advanced ran out the final winners.

A. Fayle (6s) won a Handicap Knock-Out Tournament by beating J. Finch (5s) in the final.

The School Championship was eventually abandoned uncompleted this term. A. Fayle (6s), having won the most games, was awarded the Championship.

In the Wright Shield Games the School was represented by the following: J. Finch, A. A. Smith, A. Fayle, K. Horne, R. Macdonald, J. Goodwin, M. Caddick, Auld, Wilson, Watt, Blackwell, Taylor, H. T. Roberts. Chairman: Mr. Allen. Secretary: R. F. Macdonald. Captain A. A. Smith.

The 6th Form Literary and Debating Society

THE meetings held last term were well attended. There were nine meetings held in all during the session 1947-8; five in the Christmas and four in the Spring term. The average attendance for the whole session was 32. As is the custom, the Society's activities have ceased during the Summer term, but they will be resumed next term, when it is hoped that an attractive programme will be arranged and that this encouraging figure will be surpassed.

M. T. C.

Scientific Society

THIS year the Scientific Society has continued its previous good progress. Never once has the attendance been below twenty, and the number of members in the Third and Fourth is especially gratifying. Members will recall with great pleasure the lecture given by Mr. Edge on "The Miracle of Life"—a lecture illustrated by many excellent diagrams and models.

Mr. Townsend read us a paper on "Stage Lighting." This also was supplemented by slides, and an interesting evening was concluded with several experiments in colour.

Quizzes are still as popular as ever, as was shown when 40 attended that held in the Easter term. The team captained by R. G. Palmer was victorious. In a Brains Trust held a few weeks earlier the 39 members who attended received the benefit of the combined wisdom of six students of the Advanced.

Three members of the Advanced also read papers. These were on "Plastics" by N. L. Bird, "Model Aircraft" by J. R. Ledsome, and "The Personality of Animals" by H. M. Turner.

At the end of the Christmas term, 25 members paid an instructive visit to the Birkenhead Gas Works. We all appreciated Mr. Sorby's kindness in accompanying us.

We should like to express our very warm thanks to Mr. Richards, who has been such an enthusiastic Chairman, and who has spent so much time not only in arranging meetings but in designing and drawing over forty artistic and amusing posters for the Society. His work has been the heavier since he had to form what was in effect a new Society, there having been none the year previously.

Again we would remind all readers that they may attend the Society's meetings, and express the sincere hope that they will use this privilege.

J. D. W.

University Letters

It is becoming the rule rather than the exception for the Editorial Staff to preface the matter appearing under the above heading with an apology, and this Summer *Visor* 1948 is no exception. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading the accounts of university life sent by C. D. Henry, F. M. Owers, I. Roberts, and G. S. Smith, but find ourselves reduced to printing only brief extracts from, or summaries of, their letters.

I. Roberts, of Magdalen College, Oxford, comments on the scene there "Yet perhaps in expecting Oxford to conform to a certain preconceived notion, one is only doing what amongst Dominion students is noticeable in their attitude to the English. Just as some Americans seem over-anxious to claim British origins, rather than be regarded as refugees sprung from Ruritanian stock, so some students from the Dominions seem anxious to show how English they can be. When this is combined with other desirable things such as wealth, or war service in one of the more distinguished regiments of the British Army, then their air of compliance with the conventions, of having done all the right things and having met all the right people, is even more noticeable than in English students, and when not tiresome is perhaps amusing. Like the Ulsterman with tweed cap and shooting-stick, these symbols of the pukka, the Dominion student can be more English than the English. Yet, though puzzled at first to hear young Englishmen of an apparently aristocratic nature addressing each other as 'mate' and sometimes eating in municipal restaurants, he comes after a while to see how those qualities of the English which have been stressed abroad, an inclination to the tradition and so on are not the important ones at all, and that a rapacity to call out 'jolly good show' as often as possible is not regarded as the only criterion of excellence."

F. Owers reports from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London:

"I look back with mixed feelings at my first two and a half terms at St. Mary's Medical School. My first term was very vague indeed. I

worked very hard but had little idea of what I was supposed to be doing. That has now been rectified. I now know what I am supposed to be doing, but I do not work very hard. That is generally attributed to the weather."

C. D. Henry of King's College Hospital, London, sends us a letter to explain why he has not sent us a letter. We rejoice that he has recovered from his attack of quinsy, and wish him the best of luck in his Anatomy and Physiology exams. By the time these words are in print he will, we trust, have successfully surmounted these obstacles.

From St. John's College, Cambridge, G. S. Smith sends in the following:—

"The moral of this, I suppose, is that Cambridge is becoming more and more a prey to utilitarianism, whose ruthless progress pays little heed to the traditional charms of the place. One can see the unequal contest being waged on every side. A local radio firm is reported to have offered a free television set to each college. Are the colleges to turn their backs on progress through fear of disfiguring their grounds? The lack of laboratory space presents a similar problem, as does the street widening question. It seems the only way to preserve the old Cambridge is for the greater part of the University population to migrate to some newer and brighter architect's paradise at some distance from the town, leaving the venerable buildings intact, inhabited by a few librarians, curators and professors, happily browsing in their 'ivory towers.'"

Old Boys' Association Notes

THE Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the School on Monday, the 24th of May, when the activities of the various sections for the past year, as reported elsewhere in this issue, were reviewed.

The President of the Association, the Headmaster, was present and his address included a summary of the achievements of the School for 1947/48. Members of the Association were glad to hear such an excellent account and hope that a good number of the boys who will shortly be leaving School will themselves become members of the Association. It should be borne in mind that for the first year after leaving School the subscription is purely nominal, so that you should apply for membership without delay to any of the officers of the sections or to the General Secretary, Mr. C. K. Coughtrie, 29 Kings Mount, Oxton, Birkenhead.

At present the activities of the Association include Soccer, Rugger and Dramatics; but these will be added to, if sufficient support for new ventures is forthcoming.

If you are about to leave School, please apply for membership of the Association and let us know to which section you wish to be attached.

Birkenhead Institute Old Boys A.F.C.

8 Heathfield Road,
Bebington, Chesh.
14th May, 1948.

Dear Sir,

It is some considerable time since the Football Club have made a contribution to the "*Visor*," and in consequence, it may come as news to many that the "Soccer" Club still exists. I hasten to inform the readers that it does, and has done since 1923, apart from the interval during the war years.

In the past season we fielded two teams, our first in the I. Zingari League and 2nd XI in the Zingari Combination. Our 1st XI had a fairly steady season having played 22 games, 8 won, 12 lost and 4 drawn, which left the team round about the middle of the League table. Our 2nd XI won only 3 games, drawing 2 and losing 19. We are confident, however, that they will be more successful in the forthcoming season, when they are to play in the Liverpool Old Boys' Amateur League, which will not prove quite so formidable to the many younger members of the team, and they should have a better chance of developing their game.

The Club in formulating their plans for the forthcoming season are hopeful of securing an additional ground to the one we already have at Holm Lane, Oxton. If we are successful in our efforts it will afford to us the opportunity of running a 3rd team; this will of course depend on our membership justifying it. We would, therefore, welcome any of the boys leaving School who may have a preference for Association rather than Rugby football. We do rely on an influx of new young members each season to help keep the Club in being; too much dependence is already placed on our older members, many of whom have given the Club as much as 14 years' service.

If there are any boys leaving School in the Summer term who wish to join our ranks, if they will let me have a note of their names, I shall be pleased to forward the necessary forms to them before the commencement of next season.

Yours faithfully,

N. I. Dearnley,

Hon. Secretary,

Old Instonians R.F.C.

AFTER having such a successful post-war re-start last season it is disappointing to report a poor playing record for 1947/48, the final position being:—

	P.	W.	D.	L.
1st XV.	30	6	5	19
2nd XV.	27	8	0	19
3rd XV.	9	2	0	7

Towards the close of the season, the standard of play, particularly in the 1st XV., improved considerably, and we were encouraged to expect better results next season, particularly as several members are due for "demob" and will be available regularly. At any rate, we are looking forward to our game with the School next December with subdued optimism. We must apologise to the School XV, for letting it down at the Park seven-a-side this year and offer our congratulations to you on that victory and your many others.

We have a full fixture list for three XV's next season, and we are pleased to renew fixtures with Hoylake, Ormskirk and Waterloo II, whilst the 2nd XV meet new rivals in the Liverpool Police—on a friendly basis we hope! The season opens on Sept. 4th with matches against Old Wirralians, and we are looking forward to meeting many boys still at School in the Old Boys teams on that day.

Practice games will be held on the previous two Saturdays, i.e. Aug. 21st and 28th, and so we hope to see all "new" Old Boys then.

C. K. Coughtrie.

Old Boys' Dramatic Society

DURING the current year two 3 act plays have been presented:—
 "I Killed the Count," by Alec Coppel and "Housemaster" by Ian Hay. Judging by all reports these productions have been well received and the Society feels that its first season has been a successful one.

Plans for next season include two 3-act plays, one in October and one in March, an entry for the Birkenhead Drama week in December, and a possible entry for the British Drama League Festival in November.

It will be realized that this is a very ambitious programme, and it is to be hoped that Old Boys and members of the School will give their support.

Any Old Boy who is interested in joining the Society should get in touch with the Hon. Secretary: J. Clarke, 26 Alfred Road, Birkenhead.

"HOUSEMASTER."

Ian Hay's comedy "Housemaster" was excellently presented by the Old Boys' Dramatic Society, ably assisted by School personnel, at the Y.M.C.A. Theatre on March 19th, 20th and 22nd.

The parts of the dynamic young ladies who invaded Donkin's House at Marbledown School were played with zest by Joan Coffey (Rosemary Faringdon), Jean King (Chris) and Marjorie Potter ("Button"). Gertrude Neal's performance as their aunt, Barbara Fane, was excellent throughout, whilst Joan Schofield and Marjorie Gladney made the most of their minor roles.

A. G. Williams played convincingly the difficult part of Charles Donkin, and J. K. Cornall displayed well the dry humour and playful pedantry of Frank Hastings, his life-long colleague. The pompous, puritanical Head was brought to admirably cold-blooded life by Joe Clarke. Sound performances were also given by Norman Little (Victor Beamish), P. P. Simpson (Philip de Pourville) and by Reg. Lockyer (Sir Berkeley Nightingale).

The part played by School personnel was twofold. On stage, Alan Powell ("Flossie" Nightingale) and Anthony Hudson ("Bimbo" Faringdon) were the Juvenile leads, and their excellent performances were well backed up by Michael Wood, John Gee, and Keith Gore. Off stage, J. B. Goodwin, as Property Manager, and J. C. Holden, as Electrician, did valuable work. The Stage Manager was G. G. Bennett.

Mr. Macolm, who produced the play, should feel justifiably proud of its success. As reported in the press, it "ran with a smooth competency of which many professional teams would be envious." A. R. G.

News of Old Boys

IT is interesting to note that while K. W. Walker, B.A. is a lecturer at the Military College, Sandhurst, another old boy, J. H. Lovatt is a cadet there.

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H. N. Laver has recently written to the School from the Persian Gulf, where he has an appointment with the Kuwan Oil Company. He describes the weather as 'cool' (not much above 90 degrees in the shade!) at the time of writing, but adds that sun temperatures of nearly double that figure have been recorded. Despite the fierce sand storms and long hours of work he seems to be enjoying the life. In sending greetings to the old School, he concludes: "If ever the petrol ration is fully restored, the Staff will know whom to thank."