

THE VISOR



MAGAZINE OF
BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE

EASTER 1952.



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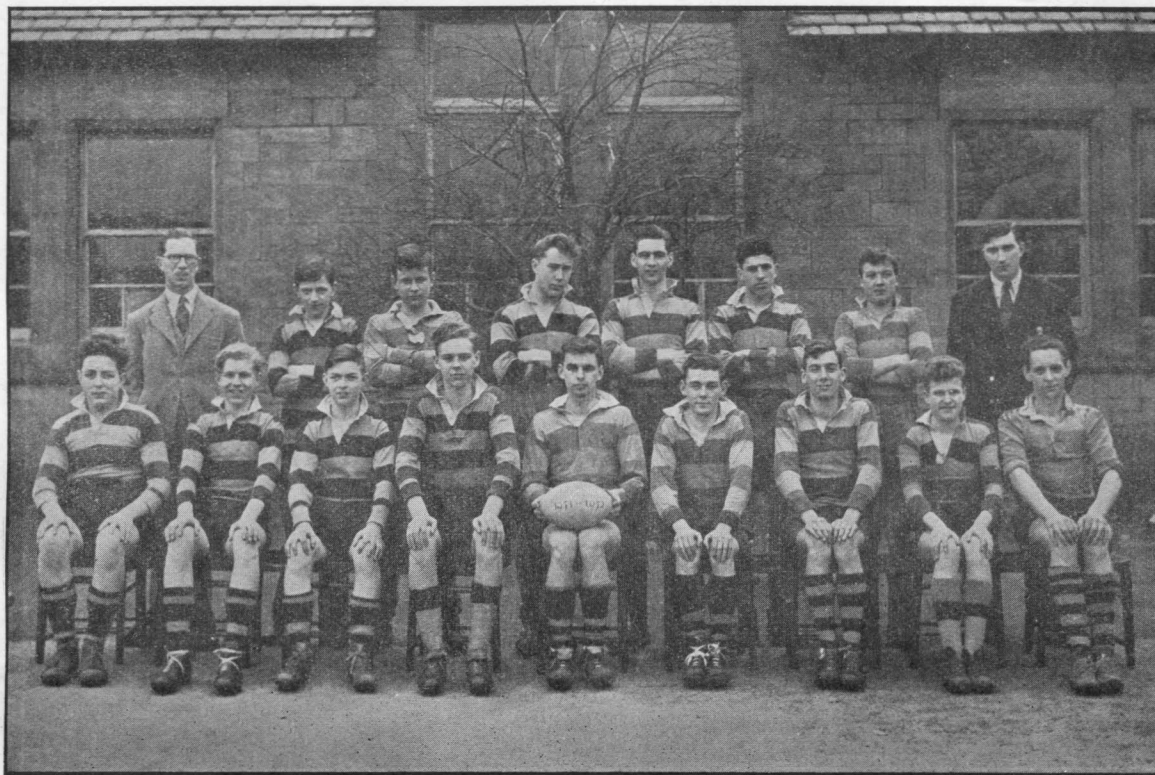
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1st XV. 1951-52



N. Batterham, R. C. Roberts, N. N. Jones, H. Smith, R. Turner, A. G. Roberts.
G.T.Jones, A.Hodgson, D.Mathieson, T.Hodgson J.R. Morris (Capt.), G.M.Dodd, C.W.Weir, B.Richards,
[B.Cadman.
Photo by Cull.



Calendar, 1952

Speech Day	27th March.
Easter term ends	9th April.
Summer term begins	28th April.
Half-term holiday	31st May to 3rd June (incl.)
Summer term ends	25th July.
Autumn term begins	8th September.

Editorial

NONE of us could have foreseen when we assembled at the beginning of this term that, before half its course had run, the last British Sovereign directly linked with the Victorian Age would have passed away. The accession of the Queen reigning in her own right, though clearly inspiring hopes of a renewal in our blood and state of the manifold and great blessings enjoyed under her predecessors so ruling, marks the start of a new era in our history. That at its outset, if not for a long time to come, it is likely to be a period of great national difficulties, can hardly be denied. The financial crisis will be directly felt in the schools of our land, both in the curtailment of building programmes and in the reduction of equipment. We in the Institute, ourselves a foundation of the penultimate decade of the Victorian period, though renewing our prestige year by year in the academic successes of our members, reflect the spirit of this present time; an age challenged by change but still fortified by continuity. On the one hand we stand as a visible reminder in Birkenhead of past generations with which our last connections are speedily dissolving, of a time when public-spirited citizens sought to give the benefits of grammar school education to all likely to benefit from them. In this issue readers will find an obituary notice of a science master who began his teaching here half a century ago when the ideals of our founders were still fresh. On the other hand, only the most factious and partisan champions of change for change's sake would refuse to admit that we have adapted ourselves manfully to the exacting demands of a newer period. Our former colleague above mentioned would have been the first to hail the election of a member of our Sixth Form to a senior science scholarship, at

Trinity College, Cambridge, last December, as signal proof that we keep abreast of the times. We continue to do so while our future is in the balance and while austerities aggravate the difficulties of the trivial round. Yet our nation has never cherished the feather bed; "our rough island story" has been largely made by men whom adversity had put on their mettle. This traditional response, we doubt not, will be again forthcoming and build a brighter future. Here the well-being of our schools is a vital factor. The generation now grappling with the problems of class-room and text-book, must, before many years are past, shoulder the greater burdens of the world outside. It will do so the more capably if tradition is allowed to assist and temper experiment, if the administrator is prepared to respect the individual, and if the wisdom and enterprise of the past is not wantonly thrown away. In such an atmosphere alone can education rout Giant Despair; in such a spirit, we must hope that the Institute will be suffered to survive to serve our local community.

Valete

6S. J. L. Anson.

4A. E. Dillon.

3A. P. H. Cox.

Staff Notes

AT the end of last term, we said good bye to Mr. Thomas who had been on the staff since September 1950. His forceful methods alike in driving home the classics and in presiding over many encounters on the School field made us reluctant to surrender him to Tottenham Grammar School, where we wish him every success, as well as inspiration from White Hart Lane.

* * * * *

This term we have welcomed Mrs. Elmslie who has nobly kept the Latin (or should we say Roman?) flag flying against the arrival, in the Summer Term, of Mr. Squires, appointed to succeed Mr. Thomas.

Obituary

THE death of Mr. W. H. Watts at Walton-on-Thames on January 22nd has removed yet one more link from the Staff of the School as I first knew it in 1906. The School in those days was much smaller in size and numbers and there were only seven masters in all but we were quite a happy band of brothers.

Mr. Watts came to the School in January, 1902, having graduated in Science at London University the previous year, and taught Physics, Chemistry and Maths. until the new wing was completed when he devoted all his energies to Physics. In 1931 he succeeded Mr. H. P. Wood as Second Master. He was always a capable teacher able to interest his pupils in his subject and above all he had an enthusiasm and facility of expression which often made the most difficult problem look remarkably easy.

Apart from his life in school, he had many outside interests. He was President of the Liverpool Federation of Learned Societies and of the Liverpool Astronomical Society before which he gave many lectures, his most notable being on "The Transit of Venus across the Sun" at the time when that phenomenon occurred in this country. At the time of the total eclipse of the sun in 1927, he prepared the School for the event so thoroughly that it became the most important topic of the day.

From the very first he became an ardent devotee to wireless, and made both a transmitting and receiving set in the Physics Lab. before the B.B.C. began to broadcast. Many amusing incidents occurred as a result of his activity in this direction and he had much trouble on account of the then janitor's interest in the new invention, the greatest catastrophe occurring when he discovered that his batteries had been wrongly connected, had boiled over and been refilled with tap water.

But apart from his scientific interests he was widely read and keenly attracted to dramatics, so that when in 1926 it was found that funds were necessary to complete the Old Boys' Memorial Pavilion on the School ground, he prevailed upon his colleagues to present a play, written and produced by himself. As was to be expected the play was in a vague way connected with astrology and was called "The Horoscope," and those who saw the author in the role of "Professor Plonsky" will not readily forget it.

Space forbids my recounting all the various sides of Mr. Watts' lovable character. He was esteemed by all who knew him. He belonged to an age beyond the ken of the present generation. When he retired in 1935, after 33 years' service to the School, his genial presence was sadly missed both in the Staff room and in the Physics Lab. where he spent most of his time. He lived to a ripe old age and of him it can truly be said that he adorned the profession to which he belonged, and left behind him a name which will long be remembered.

G.W.H.

A Dream and Some Definitions

DEAR reader, we were privileged in a recent nightmare to behold a goblin engaged in studying a huge volume. Approaching him with some deference, we inquired what the work might be which held

his distinguished attention. He replied that it was Professor Pump's treatise on "Obsolete English Words," published in 3,000 A.D. The opportunity of hearing what a scholar of that advanced period thought about our times seemed too good to be lost, and we therefore begged our goblin to look up some words for us. This is what he read aloud in a self-satisfied croak.

1. WORK.

Common and unpopular noun falling into disuse in the middle of the twentieth century. A curious usage of the word was that if work were done in a school or college between 8-50 and 9 a.m., it was then commonly referred to as "home-work." Some savants suggest the correct reading should be 'own work,' but the best authorities have always rejected this view.

2. GYMNASIUM.

A hall or enclosed space used for a variety of purposes but chiefly for the drinking of a liquid called milk (see 3 below) out of bottles which were often ceremoniously broken by fanatics afterwards. In the summer solstice, a gymnasium was the scene of tribal mourning when a number of afflicted ones sat motionless in rows for the space of a week or more. For an obviously untenable hypothesis that a gymnasium was primarily intended for physical exercises, Dr. Chugg was deprived of his general certificate (in needlework and other approved languages) by the University of Oxton, and became an object of universal derision.

3. MILK:

An off-white fluid once drunk in a gymnasium (see 2 above). A remarkable circumstance connected with milk was that those who drank it with avidity on one day shunned it like the plague on another. Hence the phrase "milky way" (once incorrectly believed to describe the heavens), meaning "the way one has with the milk.."

4. PIANO:

A thing which emitted sounds when thumped. It is now generally agreed that it was also a kind of vehicle, since it was equipped with pedals and so clearly belonged to the bicycle (which see) family. Schlinker was the first to point out that as one end (nearer the tail) was referred to as "the bass," it must have been connected with the off-licence business. The opposite end, called "the tremble," owed its name to the oscillation set up when the driver lost his temper.

5. BOOK:

Or more accurately 'Meebook.' An apparatus of torment formed by sewing together a number of printed pages. At an early period, the primitive custom of reading from one of these was replaced by the practice of 'losing meebook,' clearly establishing that in the twentieth

century books were used as counters in a contest of academic endurance (like snakes and ladders), wherein the loser of meebook gained popular approval for his success in arresting the proceedings and thereby 'went to the top of the ladder,' but incurred the risk—if unlucky—of descent down a scholastic snake to the pit known as detention.

6. BICYCLE:

A puzzle or device for exercising the ingenuity of disintegrators. The part called 'the brake' was shown by Phogg ("The Wreckers of Wirral," vol. 3, p. 155) to be a mere misspelling of the word 'break,' and this lent further weight to the contention that the sole purpose of the contrivance was to be taken to bits (e.g. as in the phrase "breaking up" describing a reign of terror at the end of a school term). An obscure custom extended the right of 'putting the break on a bicycle,' to use the forgotten idiom of the cave men of Whetstone, to all comers except the owner.

7. OFFICE:

A casualty clearing or first-aid station. To this were taken the kicked and battered whose lives had been endangered by the wreckers (vide Phogg op. cit.) in the orgy called 'the break', this latter word referring clearly here to human bones. In an office a steel box, mysteriously known as a 'Come to the Zoo', contained a large number of cards which described the complicated injuries sustained by the patrons. Each card carried the image of the victim, a necessary precaution when the features had been battered beyond recognition.

8. BELL:

Admitted by most scholars to be a difficult word owing to the variety of its qualities; e.g. a bel 'went', though it is not now possible to say where. It also seems to have been attended with some ceremony as the expressions 'before' and 'after' the bell indicate that it had a retinue like a Lord Mayor. Support is given to this view by the existence of a bell boy who must have been its acolyte. Bells were devices employed in schools and prisons to inform the inmates that time, which they believed to be at a standstill, actually moved on. After the clangour (or, at monsoon seasons, the asthmatical gasp) of the bell had ceased, it was said to have 'gone'. This would account for the complete absence of such instruments from the world now.

9. TIME TABLE:

Once believed by the learned Mogg to have been a piece of furniture supporting a clock. His theory was overthrown, however, when Pogg, LL.D., excavating near Hollybank, discovered a parchment divided into squares. A time table is now thought to have been the original version of finding the joker. Quogg ingeniously suggested

that the players (who needed tapering forefingers and a steady eye) endeavoured to find out where a person was (let Z be the person) by feeling along the X axis for the day and time, and by groping along the Y axis for some nook or cell (called 'the form'—c.f. Anglo Saxon "on toppe of his forme" descriptive of the death grapple of teacher and pupil) where Z was likely to be. Where the forefingers met in the same plane was held to show the place where Z actually was. An odd set of squares entitled 'free' probably referred to persons who had withdrawn to infinity and who were undiscoverable.

At this point the goblin broke off with a yawn, offered an acid comment on the Elves' Union rate for reading by the hour, and, closing his tome with some vigour, indicated that the entertainment was at an end.

Proclamation of Queen Elizabeth the Second.

ON Wednesday, the sixth of February, our King, George the Sixth, died, much to our sorrow. The death of one who was greatly loved and respected brought Princess Elizabeth to the throne. She had already reached Kenya en route to Australia when the sad news was received, and had to fly home. The proclamation of the new reign was read all over Britain on Friday, February 8th, and a party of boys from the Institute was invited to hear the ceremony at Birkenhead Town Hall. There were thousands of spectators in front of the building when the Mayor, Alderman C. J. Yates, read the proclamation at half past noon, in a clear voice. His red robe of office stood out against the dark clothes of the Councillors who stood near him. As the proclamation ended, the National Anthem was sung, and everyone sincerely wished the new Queen a long and happy reign.

* * * * *

The Queen attended the funeral of the late King on Friday February 15th at St. George's Windsor, where many representatives from foreign countries had gathered. At the Institute, we assembled in the Hall before 2 p.m. for a special Memorial Service, and everyone was provided with a printed copy of the order of service. The hymns sung were "O God our help in ages past" and "the King of love my shepherd is". The lesson was read by the Second Master (Mr. A. O. Jones), and we observed the two minutes silence of remembrance at 2 o'clock, after the Headmaster had read the special prayers for the occasion. Finally we sang the National Anthem, and for the first time in fifty-one years, the words "God save the Queen" were heard within the walls of the School.

J. S. BAXTER and D. HAUGHTON, Form 1A.



THE replacement of our old familiar friend, the traffic policeman at the Fire Station crossing on New Year's Day by automatic traffic signals, is a silent revolution that the *Visor* cannot allow to pass without comment. Generations of Instonians owe much to the stalwarts who, through many years and in every variety of weather, ensured their safe progress through the maelstrom. Although the new system, which appears to work well, has deprived some of our number of incisive constabulary rebuke, we feel that the policemen will be missed, particularly as the robot, when changing to green, fails to offer us a friendly 'good morning.'

* * * * *

Elsewhere in this issue will be found an appreciation of the late Mr. W. H. Watts, Senior Science Master at the School from 1904-1935, who died during the first part of the term. The Liverpool papers drew attention to Mr. Watts's presidency of the Federation of Learned Societies and his Fellowship of the Royal Astronomical Society.

* * * * *

The proclamation of Queen Elizabeth II. and the funeral of his late Majesty King George were both observed by the School. A representative party went to the Town Hall to hear the Mayor reading the proclamation. A week later, a simple but impressive service of memorial was held in the hall. Accounts of these events will be found on other pages.

* * * * *

The psalmist who asked how he could be expected to sing the Lord's song in a strange land might have added that it would have been equally difficult in a familiar one without a hymn book. For some time past our repertoire of hymns has been sadly curtailed, and this tended to make assembly monotonous. However, with the welcome new stock of hymnals which arrived just before half term, we can now do full justice to red-letter and ember days, and greet the rolling seasons with appropriate strains. A secondary result of the improvement has been that authority now requires all comers to have these books at prayers on pain of extensive manuscript reminder.

Dr. Caleb Jarvis, an old Instonian, has been appointed conductor and chorus master for the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales, to be held in Rhyl in 1953. This is the greatest honour Wales can offer to a conductor. In addition to being a lecturer at Liverpool University, Dr. Jarvis is conductor of the Welsh Choral Union and organist at St. Andrew's, West Kirby.

* * * * *

The resurrection of Master William Bunter at that rival establishment, Greyfriars, has already had a deplorable effect on some of our well-to-do 'viewers'. At least, this seems to be the obvious explanation of a new (and unwelcome) phenomenon—the ravenous person who wanders about gnawing a seven pound loaf with ferocious intensity. May we point out (a) that Bunter, living in the spacious days of 1908, could buy his provisions a good deal cheaper (particularly after the Liberal Free Trade victory); (b) that his voracity, judging by his performances in class, scarcely seems to have assisted his intellect, a grim warning we leave with our certificate candidates?

Coronation Cup

THIS year a change has been made in the values of points awarded for some activities, those for Rugby, Cricket, Cross Country Running, and the Mark Sheets, having been increased.

	1st	2nd	3rd
Athletic Sports <i>ATKIN</i>	6	4	2
Chess	3	2	1
Cricket	6	4	2
Cross Country Runs <i>ATKIN</i>	6	4	2
Mark Sheets (3 terms)	18	12	6
Rugby	6	4	2
Swimming	3	2	1
Table Tennis	3	2	1

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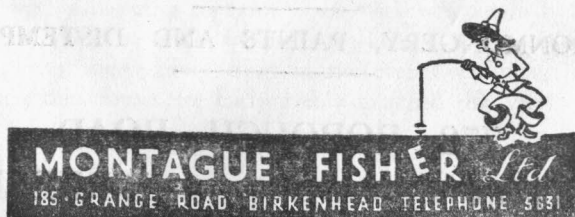
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ATKIN	STITT	TATE	W'MINSTER
			
HOUSE NOTES			

ATKIN.

THIS term has seen many events decided in the Coronation Cup competition. In the House Chess competition, Atkin won two games out of three, losing the third one to Stitt by $4\frac{1}{2}$ games to $2\frac{1}{2}$. The team beat Tate by $5\frac{1}{2}$ games to $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Westminster by 5 games to 2. The final result of the competition was that Atkin was equal first with Stitt and Westminster. Atkin did not do nearly as well in the Table Tennis, winning only one game, beating Stitt very convincingly by 5 games to nil. It lost to Tate and Westminster by very narrow margins, the scores being 3 games to 2 in each case. The one bright spot in the Table Tennis competition was the consistently good play of A. G. Roberts, who was unbeaten.

The mark sheets for last term resulted in Westminster coming first, Atkin being second.

One very important item yet to be fully decided is the Rugby. In the senior section Atkin did very well not to lose a match. It drew with Tate, 8 points each, and beat Westminster and Stitt by 9 points to 6 and 13 points to 5, respectively. One very notable factor in these matches was the brilliant display shown by T. Hodgson, who, to say the least, was an inspiring captain. Hard work was put in by the forwards, and it would be unfair to single any one out for special mention.

Atkin must make every effort in the events remaining; for it is obvious that the Houses are fairly evenly matched this year.

STITT.

AT the end of last term the Senior House Rugby matches were played. Stitt beat Westminster very easily by 14 pts. to 6 pts., but lost narrowly to Tate by 9 pts. to 6 pts., and were beaten by Atkin by 13 pts. to 5 pts. The Rugby championship has not yet been decided, as the Junior teams have to play, and it is hoped that Stitt Juniors will do their best.

In Chess this term Stitt have excelled themselves; and, as a result of the matches played, the house finished equal first with Atkin and Westminster. Stitt beat Atkin $4\frac{1}{2}-2\frac{1}{2}$, beat Tate $6\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$, but lost to Westminster by $4\frac{1}{2}-2\frac{1}{2}$.

In Table Tennis this term Stitt played very badly and did not win a game, and as a result finished bottom.

At the end of this term the Cross Country will be run, and it is hoped that a large contingent of Stitt boys will enter for the race, as this is the only way in which the House can gain first place.

J.R.M.

TATE.

THIS term was notable for Tate in that the House won the Table Tennis Competition, and tied for first place with Atkin in the Senior Rugby Competition.

At Table Tennis, after an easy 4-1 victory over Westminster Tate, helped particularly in one set by Dame Fortune, ran out winners against Atkin by 3 matches to 2. Against Stitt, after gaining a 3-0 lead, Tate gained a 3-2 victory. The House was represented in this competition by the following team:—Weir, Roberts, Robb, and Dodd.

In Senior House Rugby, it was Atkin who were lucky in the needle match between the two Houses; for, with any luck, Tate would certainly have improved upon the result, which was a draw, 8 points each. Against Stitt, Tate won by 9 points to 6, coasting home to victory far more easily than the score suggests; but against Westminster the score of 27 points against 9 was a true reflection of the superiority of the House.

In the Chess Competition, the House finished last of the quartet, losing all its three matches, and little more can be said about this competition, except to compliment W. A. Jones (4B), the most successful Chess player for his House.

When the names of the six 1st XV. members who have been awarded their Rugby colours for this season were announced by the Headmaster, it was found that four of the honoured were members of Tate: R. C. Roberts, C. W. Weir, H. Smith, and G. M. Dodd.

G.M.D.

WESTMINSTER.

THESE notes as opposed to those in the last *Visor*, have much to report; for a number of events in the Coronation Cup have been decided. The first to be decided was the Autumn Mark Sheet. In this we came first, and gained three very valuable points for the competition. Also decided in the Autumn Term was the Senior Rugby. However, this result is not very pleasing, as the Senior Team lost all its matches, finishing with 50 points against it and 21 points for. The

result of the Junior Matches will decide this event, but these unfortunately will be decided after these notes are in print.

This term two events have been decided, Chess and Table Tennis. In Chess the story becomes once more pleasant, for we beat two houses, losing to Atkin in the third. These results, owing to the other Houses' performances, gave us an equal first position with Stitt and Atkin. Finally, in Table Tennis, we have done extremely well, by winning two matches and surprising all concerned. These victories ensured us a second position.

That sums up briefly the House's achievements to date in the Coronation Cup; and, if all the members of the House continue to follow the example set by those who attained the results, we should not go far wrong. This should apply mainly to the Juniors; for up to now they have not had much to do for the House, but in the forthcoming Cross-Country and Athletic Sports their whole-hearted pull is very much needed.

Amongst the results gained by individuals of the House, special comment ought to be laid on E. E. L. Mitchell's success in the Cambridge Open Scholarship. This reflects honour on Mitchell, the School, and his House, and we all ought to be proud to be in contact with such a brilliant scholar. In a minor key it should be noted that Mitchell has also become the School Table Tennis Champion. Another fine scholastic achievement is D. J. Lewis's success in gaining admittance to the Imperial College of Science, London. In the field of sport, N. N. Jones, the present Senior Victor Ludorum holder, has been awarded his Rugby colours. This rounds off the report of our achievements, and it must be agreed that it makes very pleasing reading.

R.B.O.

Libraria

IN most years the Easter Term is marred for a large section of the School by the mock "cert." For those sitting at Advanced level it usually proves especially trying, but this year's Upper Sixth has such a large percentage of "old stagers" that examination gloom has been unable to descend. Far from being overcome by last-minute "swatitis," this term's Advanced turned out in force at the Old Boys' Rugby Dance, thus adequately showing their contempt for the trivialities of a few days of three-hour battles of wit.

Nevertheless, some members of the School are bound to be attacked by examinitis (which seems prevalent in Prenton), and those who are so subjected can always cheer themselves up at Easter with thoughts of the banquet of chocolate eggs which is sure to follow. Thoughts of eggs

brings another thing to mind; for at this season, when the world's fashion designers are creating atrocities for the summer, Whetstone Lane seems determined not to be left behind. Here the emphasis is on hair-styles; for bop-crops, crew-cuts, and D.A. fashions have produced quite a topical selection of "egg-'eads."

Although there has been little in the way of entertainment for the School this term, at the time of going to press the usual Philharmonic visit has not taken place. In its place, though, the equally entertaining arrival of Speech Day is billed as a "forthcoming attraction," and we look forward to seeing some of last year's Advanced at it.

Incidentally, the present Advanced have come across a rather interest-relic discarded by Ennion, one of last year's Librarians, and it should prove particularly useful in the post-exam. period. We extend our thanks to Mr. Ennion for his notes on this and other subjects, which have proved extremely useful.

Whatever rivalry exists between Arts and Science inside school has been more than expiated by the extra-mural liaison. The scientific study of the terpsichorean art has provided one field for united interest. A further aid has been found in a topographical study of Spital, whence a great deal of hiking has taken place early on Sunday mornings.

We end congratulating certain members of the Advanced on this sudden interest in outdoor pursuits, while we remember that certain scientists have especial grounds for mention. One has managed to retain his shares in a Railway Company, while a lesser member has acquired an interest in a Liverpool multiple store. Finally, as this is the last opportunity before June, the Library sends best wishes to those doomed in that month. Good luck!

J.G.

Science Notes

ONCE again the problem of finding some original and topical subjects that can be collected together to form our notes for this term's *Visor* confronts the unfortunate writer who heedlessly accepts the job.

We have, however, a pleasant opening to our epistle, for the form (that is its four active members) would like to congratulate Mitchell upon his Cambridge Major Scholarship. Since then he has received our envious glances for more reasons than one; for he now seems to live a life of complete laziness, and, it is whispered, debauchery. The only activity that spoils his senile existence is infrequent journeys to the Headmaster's study, though the dose received is of the classical nature, and not the usual 'Eel Special.'

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As the crazes of peashooters, elastic bands, and paper aeroplanes, strike the Lower School, so the inhabitants of the Biology Laboratory go through similar phases. The distractions turned to, however, have an intellectual component, namely chess (which always precedes the annual House Chess matches, and lasts for about a month after their finish), shove ha'penny, touch rugby, staring and leaning out of the windows, and disturbing the completion of the *Times* crossword, though this latter phase lasts for only about five minutes.

The main unscholastical pursuit of our members while in School, however, is the art of clinging to our sole source of heat, and discussing past and coming week-ends.

As an example, our latest topics are directed towards choir stalls, taps, and Lewis's venture to the night lights of London, which he recounts so fully to us!

It is at this point, with the call of duty ringing in one's ears, "Lines," that this year's chronicler can close the door once more on the internal life of our form.

G.M.D.

Form Notes

6A.

ALTHOUGH engaged in preparation for the impending exams., we have still found this term not lacking in various events outside our usual routine. Without casting aspersions upon the mental stability of our friends across the corridor, it is not exactly becoming for the élite of the Science VI. to be discovered creeping furtively about the School, secreting upon their persons ordinary, common or garden, rubber balloons which they would, when the occasion permitted, take an indescribable delight in blowing up and deflating again.

Our main cause of distress this term was the occasion upon which two of our number, engaged in hand-to-hand combat on the Junior School balcony, suddenly plunged through the lower pane of one of the windows, with the result that we were obliged to pay for the repair of the damage, and had to suffer the discomforts of a piercing gale howling about our ankles whenever the occasion demanded that we should take a lesson in the room in question.

A number of our bellicose neighbours recently discovered to their detriment that the "bright idea" of attacking our domain with clouds of Hydrogen Sulphide was not so bright, one of them being subjected to a vigorous third-degree, and another being forced to remove the object of offence.

We are pleased to announce that yet another of our number has thrown his heart into that gentlest of games, Rugby football. Parry, K., having now represented the School in the Second XV. several times, has become a regular sufferer from aching muscles, bruised thighs, and cold tea.

Our periods with the ever-patient J.R.P.F. have been reduced to one, we are sorry to say.

We have now been provided with Hymn Books, and no longer have to rely on lip-reading to follow the morning service.

Ending on a pious note, we should like to point out that now (scientists take note) our entire form attends St. Catherine's Church every Sunday evening. We protest against the accusation that we do so to be able to attend the Youth Club. Cheerio.

B.D., J.E.J., K.P.

65.

SINCE our genius seems to be in demand for this 'ere magazine, we must once again put chisel to stone (shortage of paper) in an effort to satisfy our clamouring fans.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the bop-lad left us for Boffin Land; no longer do we see tribal dances being executed on the floor. A new "school within a school" has sprung up in our élite establishment.

As usual we shall have to mention the "Lit." (short for "illiterate") Mob. We have noticed that they have found shove-ha'penny a little above their mental and physical capabilities, and have given up that noble sport—for the present anyway. However, it is with great pleasure that we note that they have found another similarly manly sport (viz. marbles) to occupy their limitless number of free periods.

Our experimental work in Chemistry has not been confined to the laboratory. One day one of us, purely by accident, chanced to stumble across a new and unsuspected way of preparing hydrogen sulphide. This gas was immediately recognised by its most characteristic property. In accordance with Newton's Third Law of Motion an equal and opposite smell then filed into the room. Enough, however, has been said about the Lit. Mob.

At the beginning of the term we had the pleasure of upholding the honour of the Sixth in the annual snowball fight with the miserable creatures forming the rest of the School. Whether our overwhelming

victory was due to our better nutrition in the dining-room cannot be asserted with confidence.

The garden which our room overlooks is the daily rallying point for all the local dogs. Its importance in this direction is apparently increasing, since the numbers of these animals observed each month form a geometric progression. It may well be that a certain local authority will here seize a glorious opportunity. Soon we may be discussing the merits of dog pie or puppy stew.

Finally we shall give a friendly warning. Any person endeavouring to indulge in the gentle art of cards with any aperson or persons of the Sixth Science, does so at his own risk, and may in no manner be recompensed for any pecuniary loss.

Now, we beg your leave with the hope that next term will not find you working too hard.

Va.

A. G. Roberts starts the ball rolling for Va with his

NOTES.

This term, when the athletic boys train for the forthcoming Cross Country, most of us are beginning to get down to some earnest studying inspired by the shadow of the "Mock." However on the Rugby field we have seven boys who have played for the 1st XV. at one time or another—Batterham, Dodd, Jones, N. N., Richards, Roberts A. G., Roberts, R. C., and Smith, R. W., while a large number have played for the 2nd XV. We have three representatives in the Chess Team, namely Bryant, Dodd, and Stephens. Many boys have taken part in the inter-House competitions for the Coronation Cup.

In the two Mark Sheets that we have had this term, Haughton keeps up his fine record of being first, but other places have had various occupants.

W. B. Richards comments that the Staff seem strangely convinced that the Form will uphold the School's record in the General Certificate, and (perhaps as a result of this) that examination gloom has not yet descended, while J. Dodd adds his congratulations on behalf of the Form to R. C. Roberts who has gained his Rugby colours.

J. A. Smith contributes yet another account of his experiences in Denmark with a description of

THE TIVOLI GARDENS, COPENHAGEN.

In the centre of Copenhagen are the well-known Tivoli Gardens, where everyone can find entertainment. It is wonderful how much is fitted into this comparatively small space: every yard is used to advantage, and the whole place is arranged in a very attractive manner. The gates open at 10 a.m. every day during the summer months, and stay open until the early hours of the morning. The peculiar charm of this amusement park cannot be properly expressed in words: it is something which only a visit can convey.

In the early part of the day children form the majority of visitors, and special pastimes are provided for them. There are sand-pits and miniature trains which make short journeys round the flower beds.

In the evening, visitors can move from one place to another to find mime theatres, concert-halls, restaurants, tea-stalls, and little shops where ice-cream and biscuits can be bought. Dotted here and there are small lakes, some merely for ornament, and others where visitors can sail in small boats. Inside these magnificent gardens there are things to suit all tastes, and hours can be spent watching all the strange scenes which take place. When it grows dark, the Tivoli is lit up with thousands of coloured lights, which are draped around the halls, among the trees, and even in the flower beds. In the open space in the centre of the gardens a special Variety act is put on which changes from week to week.

A most attractive feature of this place is the low entrance charge, which includes admission to much entertainment; and, bearing this in mind as he leaves, the visitor hopes it will not be very long before he visits this wonderland again.

W. N. Bryant anticipates the opening of the cricket season by recalling

A MOST EXCITING MATCH.

In 1949, when the New Zealand cricket team were visiting England, I went to watch them play against Lancashire at Aigburth. I was fortunate to see three of the world's finest batsmen at their best.

Lancashire batted first and scored three hundred and eighteen, of which Washbrook scored 125. That innings, no doubt, gave him great satisfaction, as he had been omitted from the previous Test team. In the New Zealand innings Sutcliffe, Scott, and Donnelly all scored over 60, and the two left-handers showed how brilliant they could be.

When Lancashire had their second innings, Washbrook again put every ball where he wished, and when, in an effort to subdue him, Wallace placed fielders very close, Washbrook replied by lofting the next ball out of the ground. New Zealand went in requiring 153 runs to win, in seventy-five minutes. The opening batsmen were Donnelly and Sutcliffe, who displayed some of the most brilliant batting ever seen at the Aigburth

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ground. In fifty- three minutes they made 120, before Tattersall, deceiving Donnelly, had him stumped. These two batsmen had shown great understanding between wickets, and had treated the bowling with equal disdain. With the exception of the Australian, Morris, I believe they are the best left-handed batsmen in the world. The match finished after Donnelly's dismissal, when Reid came in and helped Sutcliffe to hit the runs necessary for victory.

R. Vossler tells us why we have pancakes on

SHROVE TUESDAY.

This day was formerly one of universal merrymaking and all kinds of amusements, being the last day before the start of the austerities of Lent. In Roman Catholic countries it is still a day of carnival. After having made confession, or 'shrift' (whence 'Shrove') in preparation for the morrow, the faithful are allowed a brief interval of feasting, of which they take full advantage. As eggs and fats are forbidden during Lent, it is customary to use them up on Shrove Tuesday in fritters and pancakes, which thus become particularly associated with this day. The French call it "Mardi Gras," because of the fat oxen led in procession through the streets.

Finaliy S. Iveson donates an uplifting article on

SKI-JUMPING.

The fastest and most daring sport is ski-jumping. In the Alps and in Norway, the home of ski-ing, jumps are constructed on the sides of mountains. A steep slope is selected, and about fifty yards down it a wooden platform is built. The skier speeds down the slope at approximately sixty miles per hour; then he bends his knees and hurtles breath-takingly into space over the snow-covered lip of the platform. Down below there is a landing-ground specially banked to enable the jumper to slow up. The jumper steadies himself on landing by completely relaxing, flexing his knees, and putting one ski in front of the other while balancing with his arms. The world's longest ski jump is sixty yards.

5B.

A. MARSH writes on the achievements and activities* of the form:— There is not much activity in the form this term, as we are all swatting for the examinations. We have eleven members playing for the various School XV.'s. D. A. Jones and Gardner have been promoted to the first XV. The form offers its congratulations to Gardner, who was selected to play in the Town Trial. G. T. Jones was a reserve for the same match.

Some of our students were surprised to hear that they would be sitting for the French exam. Their faces would have won them jobs as comedians; for they would have made the moodiest laugh (especially the facial expression of Armstrong until he was relieved from doing it). Wish us luck in the exams., because the "students" of 5B. need it.

G. T. Jones considers himself an expert on Anglo-American relations.

England has been called the forty-ninth star on the American flag. In some ways this is an apt remark; for, although I do not think that this is politically correct, some features of the American way of life have been adopted to an amazing extent in the post-war years by the people of Britain.

For many years American films have been first in their particular field. This fact, with the addition of the gradual decline of the British film industry, has brought to the English people a vivid picture of the American way of life. The medium of literature has also shown the "mother" country the contrasts which exists in such cities as New York and Chicago. The kind of literature too has made clear the way of life which the hotch-potch of nationalities that have settled in "The States" lead from the realistic writings of John Steinbeck to the light sketches of society by Damon Runyon.

Nowadays we see in the streets a new fashion which has found its way into our way of life; it is a fashion of glaring ties, slim coats, of short hair-cuts, and an entirely new style in shoes. The establishment of bases for American airmen who drive about the country in slim, low, highly-chromed cars makes the "invasion" complete.

Ronald Duff ends this term's notes with a short story.

JUST IN TIME.

They were the only two men on deck, but neither of them spoke. They were too intently peering through the dark at the flickering lights of the opposite shore. The taller of the two turned around and looked in the direction from which the boat had just come. His eyes were glassy, and the veins stood out on his face; he opened his mouth to speak, but no sound came.

So they had escaped, beads of perspiration appeared on his forehead as he thought of his narrow escape. It reminded him of the time he was in Algiers . . .

His meditations were disturbed by the voice of his companion "I'm glad we caught this boat; the next ferry to Birkenhead is in two hours."

HODGSON starts with a summary of the form's winter activities.

During the Christmas holidays we were all (at least, some of us were!) wondering who was to be Mr. Thomas's successor—Mrs. Elmslie has ably filled the breach. As a result of Mr. Webb's taking the Sixth form for Latin, we again welcomed Mr. Thynne into our den.

In sports the form has again contributed many members of the School teams. Barwell and Hodgson have played for the 1st XV., and Barwell, Haggerty, Herbert, Hodgson, Horne, Lindop, K. W. Jones; Marrs, and Wilkinson, have played in the "Colts." Marrs has played in both School and house Chess teams, and he and Lindop have played table tennis for their respective houses.

Parslèy contributes a "heavy" article on "Weightlifting."

To develop a strong body certain courses in weight-lifting must be followed. These are explained or advertised in weight-lifting and body-building magazines by champions such as Reg. Park, "Mr. Universe of 1951," Steve Reeves, "Mr. Universe of 1950," and John Grimek, "Mr. Universe of 1948."

Some of the most common exercises are the "curl," the "standing press," the "bench press," and "squats." The "curl" is an exercise for building stronger forearms, biceps, and triceps. The exercise is performed by standing perfectly upright, with arms at the sides, and placing the heaviest manageable weight in the hands, although it can be done with one hand if the weight is small enough. The weight has been "curled" when it has reached the chest by an upward, backward movement and has been returned to the side again, the process being repeated as often as possible. The "standing press" is performed by lifting the weight, from chest height, above the head, keeping the body straight. The "bench press" is performed by lying on a bench and pushing the weight upwards from the chest. "Squats" is performed by keeping a weight on the neck and moving the trunk up and down, keeping the back straight.

Heath concludes with an article on

THE NORFOLK BROADS.

In Norfolk there are three main rivers: from north to south they are the Bure, the Yare, and the Waveney, and they meet and flow out to sea at Yarmouth. These rivers and their tributaries constitute the Broad, where, incidentally, Nelson learned to sail.

In this area there are many owners who hire out their motor cruisers and, more interesting, their yachts. It is said that a person who has never seen a yacht before will, after a week spent aboard, be laughing at beginners. The beauty of hiring a boat is that it makes one independent for a time. The boats are well equipped, having comfortable bunks,

oil lamps or electric lighting, Primus stoves or Calor gas, and plenty of storage space.

The Broads are distinctive for the wherries which used to ply with their grain cargoes between Wroxham, Yarmouth, Norwich, and Lowestoft; bitterns and bearded-tits are found only in that area; and many fine fish are found in the rivers.

4B.

D. G. SHERLOCK contributes an article on

THE SCHOOLBOYS' EXHIBITION.

This year's Schoolboys' Exhibition was held at the Agricultural Hall in London. I was lucky enough to go to see it on the third day of its showing. The most interesting stall was one by the paratroops, where it could be seen what it is like to jump by parachute. The Navy had the control room of a destroyer in which one could try one's hand at controlling a ship. The R.A.F. had a link trainer and a 600 m.p.h. test. There was a full size model of an up to date jet aeroplane hanging from the roof of the hall. There were various other stalls run by the police on road safety drill, and also one by the *Daily Mail* where any sports questions could be asked of experts. Altogether it was very interesting, and I wished I could have stayed longer.

Next we have an article by W. A. Jones entitled

IMPRESSIONS OF AN ECLIPSE.

Monday morning, 25th February, found me on the summit of Bidston Hill with a friend and a telescope, waiting to see the partial eclipse of the sun. It was a misty day with limited visibility, but the golden sun soon appeared out of the Mersey mist. At about 8-45, while I was viewing the several clusters of spots on the sun's surface, there appeared a large gap in the South-East side of the disc—the Moon. The satellite slowly moved across the bottom of the Solar circle until, at 9-15, the sun resembled a biscuit with a bite out of it at the bottom.

Along a line, starting at Khartoum and passing over Arabia and into India, the eclipse was total. In India the phenomenon coincided with a Hindu feast day. The superstitious natives knelt and prayed.

To continue, Doveston tells us about a club of his.

Five friends and I have started a Natural History Club with a subscription of 6d. a month. With this money we buy things or go for bus rides to Moreton, or anywhere which is not too far away, and list all the birds we see. At the beginning of this year we were noting with the date all the first flowers and butterflies we had seen and all the birds

we had heard singing their Spring song. I saw a small tortoiseshell butterfly in front of the school on February 19th. As well as keeping records we make plaster casts of birds and animals, imprints, etc., collect birds' feathers, and moths and butterflies—this is my job. We also collect newspaper and magazine cuttings about birds and animals and mount them in a book called Archives.

On Saturday, February 25th, we went to Moreton and walked along the shore to West Kirby. We saw plenty of birds, such as Ringed Plovers, Oyster Catchers, Redshanks, Dunlins, and the inevitable Gulls. We saw one Gull with a broken wing, and found a dead Cormorant. One of my friends saw what we thought was a Whimbrel. We tried to get near it, did so, and managed to take three photographs of it. One of us caught it, and had a look to see if anything was wrong, as we thought it would have flown away. When we let it go it still did not fly away. We discovered later that it was not a Whimbrel but a Bar-Tailed Godwit.

I think it is much better to see a bird hatch out its young than to take the eggs and have an empty shell in a box.

To conclude, Prendergast tells us about John Milton.

After Charles I. was executed, Oliver Cromwell became the leader of the Puritans and founded the Commonwealth Government. Milton, who was already famous as a Latin scholar, became Latin Secretary. After labouring for ten years in the Puritan cause, Milton found that his health and eyesight began to fail. In another year he became almost totally blind. With the Restoration of Charles II, in 1660, Milton lost his position and became a friendless, blind man.

He went to his house in the country to compose some of the greatest poems in the English language. I say compose, not write, because as he was blind he had to have someone to write his works for him. His three daughters grumbled at the task of writing for their father. Later, in 1663, he married for the third time. It was a great help to his writing when Andrew Marvell, a Yorkshire poet, came to his aid and acted as his secretary.

While I was in Buckinghamshire I visited Milton's cottage. In cabinets in one of the rooms are some of his original manuscripts, quills, and the turnspit for his Sunday dinners.

WE begin this form's notes with an article by J. Taylor, entitled

OLD ENGLAND.

Sometimes, as you travel through England, you may find a stone cross erected in the centre of a village or, perhaps, in the churchyard. In the case of the cross's being in the churchyard you will discover, if you enquire, that it was once the custom for the priest at certain festivals of the year to preach in the open, when he would stand on the stone steps of the cross, possibly with the choir at the rear and accompanied by his cross bearer. Those crosses which were placed outside the churchyard were used by wandering preachers of the Middle Ages and were sometimes also used by the village priest.

If you go inside the village church, you may see displayed upon the wall, usually by the main entrance, a large board telling the story of the village charities. Wealthy people left sums of money in their wills which were to be used to buy necessities for the poor people of the parish. There is one village where every year all the old people of the parish who are over seventy years of age and who were born in that village receive clothing and a large hamper of food every Christmas. The money for these gifts comes from a bequest made in the seventeenth century. Also in another village each old person receives five cwt. of coal and a joint of meat at Christmas, from a bequest which also dates from the seventeenth century. Charities which distribute food, coal, and clothing, still exist in this country.

While in the church, you should look around to discover if there is a rood screen, or signs of where one might have been. The rood screen was placed across the entrance to the chancel. Through the arches of the screen you can see the altar and above these a loft or gallery. It was usual for this gallery to hold a large cross with the Virgin Mary on one side and St. John on the other. In our cathedrals and large churches the Gospel was sung from the rood loft on special occasions, and in the parish churches of the Middle Ages the choir used to sing from the loft, which was entered by a staircase at the side, which was sometimes built within a great pillar flanking the chancel opening.

Also in the church may be seen a notice or announcement which refers to the Parish Clerk. In the Middle Ages he was a church officer of some importance, whose special duties included the management of the Parish School and the singing of the Psalms in the services. In addition he had to open the church in the morning and lock it at night, ring the bell for the services, attend these, fill and clean the oil lamps and trim the wicks, and cover the floor of the church with clean rushes or straw. In a word he was the educated handy man of the church in the

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Middle Ages. Later, the office deteriorated, and has now passed away.

We have seen how it was the duty of the Parish Clerk to strew the church floor with rushes. In some places it would seem that once a year all the rushes, or their equivalent, were cleared out of the church, and there followed a full ceremony of "rush-bearing." August 24th, St. Bartholomew's Day, was selected for the annual spring clean. In districts where rushes were not available, hay or straw was used, as at Hailham in Sussex, while Norwich used pea-straw. This custom is still maintained at St. Mary's, Redcliffe, while at Old Clee Church, near Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, grass is strewn in the aisle every Trinity Sunday and at Shennington, Warwickshire, the church is covered with freshly mown grass each Whit Monday, and here a field has been bequeathed to the village so that the custom shall not die out.

We conclude with an article by B. Lloyd, which he has called

CRESTS OF THE WORLD'S AIRLINES.

For many years travellers have been accustomed to recognising steamship lines by the distinctive funnels and the companies' flags; the red and black funnels of the Cunard-White Star, the yellow funnels of the Canadian Pacific, and the mauve hulls and orange funnels of the Union Castle Line, have all become familiar.

As air travel is now on a vast scale, the crests and markings of the main airline companies are becoming known along the world's air routes. Most of the European airlines' aircraft carry the markings of their operators' crests. Sabena Airline has a crest consisting of the black, yellow, and red flag of Belgium, while K.L.M., the Royal Dutch Airline, has a crest consisting of the royal crown, wings, and the initials of the company.

Outside Europe there are many other airlines. One of these, the South African Airways, has a crest depicting a winged springbok, while another, Trans-Canada Airlines, uses a globe, surmounted by a red maple leaf and the letters T.C.A. Others include Trans-Australia Airlines, which employs a crest consisting of a kangaroo, a compass, and a map of Australia; T.W.A., which has an Indian arrow, which also appears with the head of an Indian on the crests of Mid-Continent Airlines and Western Airlines; while North-East Airlines shows in its emblem the head of one of the early settlers of New England, where the company operates. India's airlines also have their distinctive crests. Air India International has a blue or black Sagittarius with the company's name in red. Last, but not least, Lloyd Aero Boliviano has a very impressive black, red, and white Andean condor with outstretched wings, the letters L.A.B. appearing in white across the bird's breast and wings.

Apologies are due to H. Peers, whose interesting article may not be included, owing to lack of space.

A SPATE of articles on interplanetary soccer appeared among this form's contributions, but the selected entries are on more down-to-earth subjects. We commence with J. B. Jones's description of Birkenhead's "Procession in Memory of King George VI."

On 17th February, 1952, contingents from all of the Youth organisations in Birkenhead gathered together to walk slowly in procession from the Town Hall to St. Mary's Church. The procession consisted of the A.T.C., Birkenhead School A.C.C., the Birkenhead School Royal Navy Cadets, the Red Cross, the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Sea Rangers, Girl Guides, and the 23rd Birkenhead Scouts.

When the procession arrived at the Church, Birkenhead School A.C.C. and 23rd Birkenhead Scouts could not be accommodated in the church, so they went back to the Town Hall and, after having coffee, returned to join the procession coming back.

The Birkenhead Corporation Prize Band played the National Anthem outside the Town Hall, then the organisations dispersed.

We continue with D. Potter's entry—

BIRDS AND THEIR EGGS.

Some birds, a few of which are the Song Thrush, Hedge Sparrows, Blackbird, and Starling, start laying their eggs in early March. It is easy to distinguish the nest of the Blackbird from that of the Thrush, the difference being that the Thrush lines his nest with mud, whereas the Blackbird lines his with moss. The smallest English bird is the Wren, and her egg is little bigger than a pea. In Africa, however, there is a bird called the Humming Bird which is only the size of a bumble bee. This bird's egg is smaller than a pea. The one similarity about all eggs is that the colours always coincide with their surroundings.

We finish with an article submitted by R. G. Thompson, and afterwards one by M. Thwaite.

Of the boys in our form, nine are in the Bantam XV., these being:—Bell, Porter, D. F. Jones, Walsh, Hewitt, Pritchard, Burnell, Stevenson, and Smith. In the inter-form Chess competition Walsh is still holding his own.

Our form room has somewhat lovely surroundings; namely, the big proud walls of the office and staff room. Near the windows on the right we have the well-built roof of the toilets, on which there are enough balls to start a toy shop. In the form we have an impressionist who can impersonate any prefect in the School, his best impressions being those of Lewis, Taylor, and Smith. Perhaps one day he will become Peter Seller's assistant.

A FRONT-WHEEL-DRIVE DOUBLE DECKER.

An outstanding contribution to technical progress in bus chassis design was made by Gilford in 1931 with an experimental four-wheel double-decker. The engine was in the orthodox position, but was a Junker's two-stroke six-cylinder diesel imported from Germany, of opposed piston layout, with two crank-shafts, one on top of the engine. It drove to a four-speed gearbox in the cab and thence to the front wheels, so the conventional transmission line and rear axle-pot were eliminated, and this, in conjunction with a form of chassisless construction, enables the Wycombe body to be brought down to an overall height of 12 feet 11 inches. It seated 56 and was known as the "D" type. This bus was exhibited at the Commercial Motor Show in November, 1931, but it had so many revolutionary features that nobody could be persuaded to buy one at that time of economic depression. It never entered service anywhere, but was rebuilt as a trolley-bus and used at Wolverhampton and Southend-on-Sea. A front-wheel single decker was also built at about this time, but this also was never sold to an operator.

Time has revealed that Gilford was eighteen years ahead of progress; for the two-stroke diesel did not again appear in a British bus until Foden made a lot in 1949. No other low, high-bridge bus appeared until the Bristol Lodekka (height 13 feet 2 inches) in 1949. Chassisless construction for single-deckers is only now becoming general, and has not yet appeared on a double-deck motor bus; no further front-wheel drive buses have been produced at all.

2A.

THE Editor would like to thank T. J. Walsh, M. Lloyd, and Caldwell, for the information supplied in their contributions, the following facts have been taken from these boys' notes:—

2A. seems to be well represented in the Rugby field; for K. Hopner and A. Jones both are regular members of the Bantams, whilst G. T. Lloyd, E. Lutner, and Fitzgerald are reserves. In Chess, P. Jones represents the form in fine style. This term two members, Walsh and Lutner, both brought honour to themselves and their form by their success in the recent R.S.P.C.A. competition. Many members sent in contributions, and although this is a pleasant fact, it might be noted that a little more quality combined with this quantity would be desirable.

There seems to be a keen interest in Nature Study in 2A; for four members sent in articles on this topic. These boys are: R. Goat writing on sticklebacks and honey-bees; J. Allsop on the wren; S. Grayson on fishing; and finally G. Lloyd on the pike. It is unfortunate that owing to that old bogey, lack of space, we are unable to print any of these articles.

R. Scott wrote a very topical and interesting article; he calls it

A SECOND ELIZABETHAN AGE.

A few weeks ago we were dealt the hard blow of the death of King George VI. When the shock had passed, we slowly began to realise that we were coming into another Elizabethan period. This subject is one well worth thinking about. As every schoolboy knows the reign of Elizabeth I. was one of Art and Exploration.

Think of the great Elizabethan names: Sir Francis Drake, Sir John Hawkins, and Sir Martin Frobisher, all great seamen and explorers. Who will be their modern counterparts? We know that there are no more countries to be discovered, but what about the planets? How long will it be before the first space ship starts its journey?

In the Arts, shall we have perhaps a second William Shakespeare? In music shall we have someone to equal the greatness of William Byrd?

It is now up to us, who are growing up in this new reign, to do all we can to make its history as great and colourful as that of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

Another member of 2A., G. McKay, also writes interestingly about

THE MEN WHO GAVE US LIGHT.

Now that men have conquered darkness so that we can light a place merely by touching a switch, it is hard to imagine what it must have been like to live before the invention of artificial light. To-day anyone can light a room by the simple action of pressing down a switch; but even a king could not have done that a hundred years ago. The men who began to light the world with gas were laughed at as if they were idle dreamers, and even wise men declared that lighting houses and towns by gas was a mad idea. But the men plodded on, as all the inventors did, fighting against ignorance and superstition, and they won the day. It is one of the most hopeful signs in the world when the world laughs at you, and we can never pay the debt we owe to the men who struggled hard to benefit the world while those who looked on laughed.

To complete these notes K. Hopner's article is reproduced. Perhaps, if the contents of this article are noted, the members of 2A. may gain an idea how Hopner obtains his scholastic achievements.

THE GOLDEN PATHWAY.

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2B.

THIS form has once more excelled itself in the *Visor* sales, being second in the whole school and first in the Junior school. It also excels in sport according to G. Williams. He tells us that Cundill, Piper, Billing, Olsson, Meredith, Evans, and Clappitt have played either for the form or for their House. Having learnt the form's capabilities, we begin the notes with an article by Stéen, entitled—

SHARKS.

A shark is a blind fish and is led around by a small fish which is nearly blind itself. It is called a pilot fish and swims by the shark's ear. If a white man is swimming close by a shark, the pilot fish sees only a white blur, and it leads the shark towards the man's body. The shark eats most of it, and the pilot fish finishes it. However, if a black man is swimming close to the shark, the pilot fish cannot see him but can only hear the splashing of his arms and legs.

Many sharks are found in the Indian Ocean and can be recognised by the fact that their dorsal fin show above the water. The shark, when it attacks an enemy on the surface, comes up behind, dives underneath the water, and turns over, so that it can attack from the below.

We conclude with an article by K. W. Cundill, entitled

RECORDS THAT STILL STAND.

In 1884 R. Percival of Australia threw a cricket ball 140 yards 2 feet, while in 1904 R. C. Ewry did a standing long jump of 11 feet 4 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches at St. Louis. Five years later on April 24th, 1909, at Brooklyn, New York, H. L. Hillman and L. Robertson in a three-legged race ran a hundred yards in 11 seconds, and in 1928 A. Newton of South Africa ran a hun-

dred miles in 14 hours 22 minutes 10 seconds, his approximate time for each mile being 8 minutes. Although these are remarkable records, perhaps the most remarkable is the one created by G. Pouliquen of France in 1912. A swimming master in a French school he stayed under the water for 6 minutes 29.8 seconds. All these records still stand to-day.

1A.

DIXON describes a tour around a cargo boat:—

My father is a foreman for the 'Clan Line Shipping Company, and managed to obtain permission for me to visit the 'Clan Sinclair.' We were met on the bridge by the Captain, who showed us the radar equipment, the well-furnished cabins, and the dining-room, a spacious hall with swinging doors. Then we visited the lounge, furnished with a thick carpet and writing-tables, and the galley; and finished the trip with a tour of inspection around the engine room.

The only other worthwhile article, from a host on cats, dogs, and snakes, was Miller's effort on a visit to Chester Museum:

When I visited the Museum I saw first a prehistoric 'dug-out,' a canoe about ten feet long and two feet wide. I next visited the display of armour which included coats of mail, and a collection of swords, which included a rapier, a sword with a long, narrow, blade. In the next room were the torture instruments, which included the rack, on which the victim was stretched and pulled apart, and the 'Iron Maiden,' an iron box on whose lid were spikes which impaled the victim when the lid was closed.

1B.

AS each of our three selected contributions consists of an account of an excursion to somewhere or other, it doesn't really matter which we start with; so we begin with D. McCann's article entitled

A VISIT TO CHESTER ZOO.

To get to Chester Zoo you take the single decker bus from Chester Market to Mill Road. The bus takes a quarter of an hour to get there, and a few yards farther down the road is the Zoo. After passing through the turnstiles you come to the monkey-house, where there are all kinds of monkeys. A few yards further down you come to the bird-house, where there is a parrot which talks to you when you say, "Hello, Polly," and a big vulture and its young. There is also a big cage full of cockatoos, trying to burrow out underneath the cage. On the other side of

the bird-house there is a big skelëton of a blue whale's jaw and backbone, which is about 25 ft. long, grey-black in colour, and is resting on a base with flowers around it. If you want to enjoy yourself go farther down until you come to the sea-lions and polar-bears. The sea-lions are in a large lake with a low wall around it. They catch fish expertly at feeding-time. The polar-bears are not very active; they just walk up and down by the edge of their big lake, waiting for feeding-time, when the keeper throws loaves of bread into the water for the bears to dive after. The big brown bear is lazy, and just sits there on a rock with his paws on his stomach, waiting for tit-bits from the crowd. He looks as if he is smiling all the time, with his mouth open and tongue hanging out. The reptile house is more interesting, because in it there are snakes you have never seen before. There are a chameleon, crocodiles, rattle-snakes, boa constrictors, vipers, and a cobra. These are kept in big glass cases with plants like those in their own countries. The lion-house is a big enclosure like a park with the lions strolling about in it.

We continue with an article by C. Colley, entitled

A VISIT TO THE LAKE DISTRICT.

One Saturday, I was invited to go on a trip to the Lake District, to Windermere. When I reached there, all the bus party split up. My little party first went to a café, but when we went in we found out that you couldn't have lunch unless you had brought your own tea-pot and cups. All afternoon we went looking for food, but we got nothing except some home-made wine. Then we went across the lake, and it was a beautiful sight to see the hills with trees on each side of the lake. It was very calm, and there was little breeze blowing. After coming back we went to a park and saw hundreds of daffodils and other flowers, and then we suddenly remembered it was time to go back to join the others. We were very sorry to leave such a pleasant place.

Our final article is a description

THE SIGHTS OF LONDON

If you like sight-seeing, one of the best places to go to is London.

In the middle of August last year I spent a holiday there. First we went a ride in a motor-boat up the River Thames to the Tower, where the 'Beefeaters' showed us around. We went over a great deal of the place, but I think the most interesting part was a little room where the Crown Jewels were kept. There were a lot of crowns, from 1782 to the present day, and also a lot of jewelled swords and glittering mantles of gold and silver. I also saw the late King's crown with the great diamond in it. With the crown were the sceptre and the orb.

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On my way to Madame Tussaud's another thing that fascinated me was the number of 'moving stairways' at Piccadilly Circus. From here I took another train to Madame Tussaud's, and saw lifelike images of the Royal Family, the past and present Governments, and many radio and sporting stars. In another large room I saw all the Kings from about the fourteenth century. In every room throughout the large building everything was marvellously done.

Rugby Club

AS can be seen from the results, the 1st XV. this season started by being one of the least successful for some years. The players were young, small, and inexperienced. After considerable experiment however the team began to settle down at the end of last term, when a more determined and aggressive spirit replaced the earlier defeatist mood, with the result that this term the team has performed much better and with considerable promise of success for the rest of the season.

The Captain, J. R. Morris, continues to play well. Now that he has been able to return to his own position, there is a distinct improvement in the pack, where the work of T. Hodgson and N. Jones is worthy of special mention. C. Weir, at stand-off half, has improved rapidly and should, next season, develop into an outstanding player. Gardner, recently promoted to the 1st XV. as full-back, is playing well, and has already helped to win some games with his accurate kicking.

G. Dodd and R. Turner played in the Public Schools Games at Birkenhead Park on 26th December. G. Dodd was afterwards chosen for the West Cheshire team.

Dodd, Morris, and N. Jones were chosen for the Probables' Team, and Weir, C. Roberts, T. Hodgson, H. Smith, and Gardner, for the Possibles' Team in the Birkenhead Grammar Schools' Trial Match. The selectors afterwards chose G. Dodd, Morris, T. Hodgson, and N. Jones for the first game.

Colours have been awarded to G. Dodd, T. Hodgson, C. Weir, H. Smith, and N. Jones.

The 2nd XV. has not played regularly. It is more noteworthy for its enthusiasm and courage than its skill, and has suffered many defeats, mainly because it is a very light team in comparison with its opponents.

The Colts Team has many players of great promise. A. Hodgson, this term's Captain, is also a regular member of the 1st XV., and should become an outstanding player. Barwell and Sherlock, too, show great promise and have often played for the 1st XV.

The Bantams' Team has had a successful and promising season under their Captain, H. Jones. It is a well-balanced side which should in time provide a number of first-rate players for the School.

RESULTS.

The records of the School XV.'s when last term's *Visor* went to the printers were as follows:—

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Points.	
				For.	Agst
1st XV.	8	— 1	— 7	37	204
2nd XV.	4	— 0	— 4	11	237
Colts XV.	5	— 1	— 4	31	58
Bantams XV.	5	— 3	— 2	43	23

Since then, the following results have been obtained:

	1st XV.			2nd XV.	
Park High SchoolA.	Lost	0—35	— H.	Drew	6— 6
Rock Ferry High School.....H.	Lost	11—12	— A.	Won	8— 3
St. Anselm's CollegeH.	Won	12— 5	— H.	Lost	11—19
Ruthin SchoolA.	Drew	3— 3			
Liverpool CollegiateH.	Won	11— 6			
St. Edward's CollegeH.	Lost	0—12	— A.	Lost	0—27
Wirral Grammar SchoolA.	Won	5— 0	— H.	Lost	3—23
Park High SchoolH.	Lost	11—15	— A.	Lost	0—12
	Colts.			Bantams.	
Rock Ferry High School.....H.	Lost	0—11	— A.	Won	17— 9
O'dershaw Grammar School .H.	Lost	3—11			
St. Anselm's CollegeH.	Won	8— 0	— H.	Drew	6— 6
Liverpool CollegiateA.	Drew	6— 6			
St. Edward's College				H.	Lost 0—13
Wirral Grammar SchoolA.	Lost	5—12	— H.	Drew	14—14
Park High School				H.	Won 12— 3

Atkin and Tate drew for 1st place in the Senior House Matches. The records are as follows:—

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Points
1. Atkin	3	2	1	0	28	—	17
1. Tate	3	2	1	0	42	—	21
3. Stitt	3	1	0	2	22	—	28
4 Westminster	3	0	0	3	21	—	47
							T.S.H.

Chess Club

THE School Chess team maintained the good form shown in the early part of the season, finishing equal first in the Wright Challenge Shield Competition, thus becoming joint holders with Birkenhead School. This is the fourth time the School has won the trophy, the last occasion being 1929-30.

Results:—

v. Alsop High School	Won	5	—2
v. Birkenhead School	Won	5	—2
v. Holt High School	Won	4	—3
v. Liverpool Collegiate School	Won	4	—3
v. Merchant Taylors' School	Drawn	3½	—3½
v. Wallasey Grammar School	Won	5	—2
v. Liverpool Institute	Won	4	—3
v. Liverpool College	Won	5	—2
v. Calday Grange Grammar School	Lost	3	—4

The School Team concluded the season's programme by defeating the Staff 4—3.

Every member of the team has played well, the outstanding performance being that of T. Dodd (of 5A.), who has won 7 and drawn 4 of his 11 games.

In the Cheshire Challenge Shield Competition, the School drew 4—4 with Wallasey Grammar School, losing by the elimination of the bottom board result.

Two Second Team matches were played, resulting in a loss against Merchant Taylors' (3—4) and a draw with Calday Grange G.S. (3½—3½).

The inter-House matches were so keenly contested that they resulted in a triple tie for first place, between Atkin, Stitt and Westminster. A noteworthy achievement was that of Marrs (of 4A.), who, playing first board for Stitt House, won all three of his games.

Results:—

Stitt 4½—Atkin 2½. Westminster 4—Tate 3. Atkin 5½—Tate 1½.
Westminster 4½—Stitt 2½. Atkin 5—Westminster 2. Stitt 6½—Tate ½.

Neither the School Championship nor the Junior Championship, the latter of which attracted forty entrants, is yet decided, but it is expected that there will be a keen struggle for first place in both sections.

We must offer our congratulations to E. Taylor (6 Science) and W. N. Bryant (5A.) on again being invited to play for Cheshire Junior Team against Lancashire, on 22nd March.

Several of our members hope to compete in the Chess Congress, due to be held at Wallasey over Easter. Last year, E. Taylor was equal first in the Junior Major Section, T. Dodd second in the Junior Minor Section, I Marrs equal first in the Under 15 Section.

C.W.W.

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Literary and Debating Society

THERE has been an average attendance this term of thirty-eight.

Two debates have been held: one of them, "That jazz is to be preferred to serious music, proposed by Dodd, seconded by Owen, and opposed by Moore, seconded by Bryant, proved very popular. It was illustrated with gramophone records. This motion was carried by 15 votes to 14. The other was "That this House regrets that Christopher Columbus discovered America," proposed by Turner, seconded by Richards, and opposed by Weir, seconded by D. A. Jones. This motion was defeated by 7 votes to 21. In addition to these debates, Mr. W. E. Williams regaled the Society with an amusing discourse entitled "The Queer Side of Things," and a General Knowledge Quiz was won by the 6th Form.

The final meeting of the term, and incidentally of the year, will take the form of impromptu debates. R.T.

Table Tennis Club

THE House Competition was played this term, Tate proving easily the best team. Westminster, Atkin, and Stitt were placed in that order. Three knock-out competitions have also been held. In the singles Weir won the first competition and Mitchell the second. In the deciding match Mitchell proved the winner. In the doubles final Weir and Jordan played Davies and Mitchell. Weir and Jordan won 2 games to 1.

Tennis Club Notes

IT is hoped that even more members will support the Club this season.

Former members will have first choice of joining, after which it will be a case of first come first served. The membership subscription will again be the very small sum of 5/-. Provided that a sufficiently high standard of play can be reached, a few junior fixtures will be played against local clubs.

After Easter, Tennis will be resumed at Ashville Road on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at the usual time of 4 o'clock until 6. The Club will be open until the end of September on the above days, so all we need now is plenty of tennis, plenty of support, and, most of all, good weather. J.E.J.

Scout Notes

THE School Scout Troop continues to hold its regular weekly meetings in the gymnasium on Wednesdays and Fridays. Plans are now almost complete for the Troop Show which is coming off in October, and the Troop will soon be hard at work on rehearsals.

The Troop would like to pass a vote of thanks to the Ladies' Committee for their untiring efforts in organising Troop functions, especially the monthly whist drives.

Old Boys' A.F.C.

IN this mid-season report we should like to be able to tell you about the way in which our two teams had risen to the head of their respective League tables—yes, we certainly should like to be able to tell you that, but I am afraid that we cannot do so. The position, however, is not too discouraging: our first team in the Liverpool Old Boys' League have reached the final of the Old Boys' Shield, and we have high hopes of winning. This, as far as I can see by consulting the club records, would be the first time that we had won the shield. The position in the League has not been too high, but this has been caused by a number of postponed League fixtures due to various Cup Competitions that we have been playing in. Now that we have got back to the league games, we have started a slow but steady climb upwards, and by the end of the season we should be much nearer to the head of the League.

The trials and tribulations of the 2nd team have been many and varied, but they are holding their own in the Wirral Combination Div. 3. Owing to the late entry into the League, we have several games in hand of all other teams in the division. Any reader who wishes to keep up to date with the fortunes of our teams can do so quite easily—the 1st team results can be found in the Liverpool Daily Post every Monday, and the 2nd team results and League Table can be found in the local papers every Wednesday.

In closing I would remind any reader nearing the school-leaving age that we are always pleased to welcome to our ranks anyone interested in soccer. Just 'phone or call on me at 7 Fairview Road, Oxtun; Telephone Birkenhead 5254. I shall be pleased to help you.

J. A. YOUNG, *Hon. Sec.*

Old Instonians' R.F.C.

EASTER sees yet another season ended—a season full of good clean games, even if all were not won. In particular the matches against the School were most enjoyable. Three teams have been fielded regularly, and on occasion a 4th XV. With a few recruits from boys leaving School, a 4th XV. will be a regular feature. Three dances and a hot-pot have been enjoyed; and, to round off the season, a dinner is to be held on May 3rd.

Boys leaving School this Easter or Summer are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held in the School on Monday, April 28th, at 7-30 p.m. Whether you attend the meeting or not, do not forget to get in touch with me at the following address, and you can be assured of some fine games of Rugby in good company, next season.

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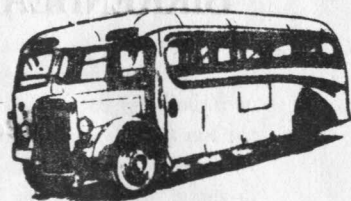
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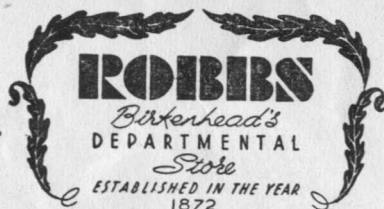
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