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MAGAZINE OF  
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CHRISTMAS 1953.



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Patrol Leaders:

C. H. ARMSTRONG; J. E. GREEN; D. A. JONES;

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## School Calendar

Autumn Term began .....	September 9th.
Half-term holiday .....	November 2nd and 3rd.
Autumn Term ends .....	December 23rd.
Spring Term begins .....	January 11th, 1954.
Half-term holiday .....	February 22nd and 23rd.
Spring Term ends .....	April 14th.

## Editorial

ENGLISH literature would still have contrived to be great if it had been bereft of winter as a theme, but would surely have lost one of its chief glories. Imagine some of our great novels short of frost and ice, of snowbound roads, of howling gales and of their cheerful compensations, roaring fires and snug chimney-corners! Try to think of Dickens without the slide at Dingley Dell or Hardy without the Waits! If milk no longer "comes frozen home in pail" (though our bottles do their twentieth-century best with it at times in the hall on grim mornings), we still feel some of Shakespeare's zest in a "nipping and an eager air." The fact is that, while Englishmen pretend to be somewhat apologetic about their winter months (at least they never invented mournful names for them like *Brumaire* or *Nivose*), in sober fact they enjoy them. The sinister note struck at harvest when we sing "Ere the winter storms begin" is a patent fraud; for we really anticipate the sharp mornings and the light-studded early twilights with keen pleasure. Creature comforts are appreciated to the full at this time, and who will dare to deny that ours is a cosy civilisation? At School, of all the terms this remains the best, when footballers scud through the invigorating air, when all our clubs are in full swing, when examinations are not imminent, and when home is a haven. The *Visors* which have been appearing at Christmas for the past quarter century have always reflected the packed and varied life of these terms; and contain something for everybody. This issue is no exception and will we trust satisfy all demands; from the record of our triumphs at the end of an old School year last summer to the full and faithful survey of the beginning of a new one. The reader will find nothing of moment lacking in this account of an interesting term, which opened for the School under new leadership. We are glad to have this opportunity of welcoming the appointment of Mr. A. O. Jones as Head Master. With thirty years' service at the School in charge of our Chemistry department, which under his expert supervision has produced so many distinguished students, Mr. Jones had been successively Senior Science



Master and Second Master before succeeding to the Headship. The careers of Old Boys have always been his especial interest. They and present boys may rest assured that under his guidance our name will gain fresh lustre and merit the pride of those who bear it.

## *Salvete*

Ainsworth, E.; Ainsworth, T.; Barwell, D.; Bather, P. A.; Bewley, J. E.; Bird, A.; Bird, P. A.; Blythe, J.; Brady, G. B.; Brobyn, C.; Brooks, R. C.; Brown, P.; Buckland-Evers, G.; Byrne, R.; Carberry, T. A.; Chesworth, D. C.; Cram, R.; Cross, L. G.; Davies-Patrick, R.; Dawson, A. E.; Definis, N.; Donè, W. R.; Ellison, B. W.; Farrer, C. C.; Ferguson, N. C.; Foulkes, P.B.; Hadfield, F.; Halewood, D.; Harland, D.J.; Hill, R.W.F.; Hayès, R. J. B.; Johnston, L. F.; Jones, D. D.; Jones, J. G.; Lee, C. M.; Lewis, R. D.; Mathews, A. J.; Miller, D. M.; Morgan, D. J.; Mountfield, P.; Myers, C. J.; Myers, M. A.; O'Connor, A.; Ollerhead, T. J.; Owen, G. L.; Phipps, F.; Pierce, W. V.; Pollock, L.; Pritchard, R. W.; Pulford, R. A.; Reed, H.; Roberts, D.; Roche, P. W.; Skinner, A.; Smith, J. D.; Stewart, K. F.; Taylor, J. D.; Taylor, R. G.; Wainwright, B. L.; Ward, K.; Williams D.; Wilson, J.; Winder, P. J.; Wright, B. W.; Wright, P. W.

## *Valete*

### SUMMER TERM.

ADVANCED :—Davies, B.; Hodgson, T. S.; Hughes, J. T.; Jordan, J. E.; Parry, K.; Parry, N. A.; Smith, H.; Taylor, E.; Turner, R.; Weir, W. C.; Batterham, N.

53 :—Barwell, D.; Chambers, A. G.; Parsley, D. G.

5B :—Almond, H. C.; Barr, K. M.; Baxter, J. H.; Booth, K. Y.; Britton, J. F.; Burton, B. A.; Conolly, G.; Cookson, B. R.; Doveston, G. A.; Dunn, W. H.; Edwards, R. G.; Finney, A. H.; Hewitt, J. E.; Jackson, D. R.; Jones, D. A.; Jones, W. A.; Prendergrast, B. G.; Redwood, B.; Slevin, C.; Telford, A. G.; Williams, D. G.

4B :—Malcolm, A. T.; McKnight, J. S.

2B :—Andrews, H. E.; Evans, W. G.; Doctor, J. A.; Hughes, G. R.; Miller, D. B.

1B :—Sutton, D. A.

### AUTUMN TERM.

5B :—Roberts, J. G.; Stevenson, D. G.

## Staff Notes

**M**R. Hall has become Second Master this term. Appointed to the staff in 1922, Mr. Hall has been Senior English Master for twenty years, but readers of the *Visor* know him perhaps even better as Editor since its introduction twenty-seven years ago. We welcome Mr. E. W. Hughes who joined the Staff in September as Music Master. Connoisseurs appreciate his accompaniment of the morning hymns, but the more practical have been inspired to make their own music on the same high principles and may be surprised at odd times practising the recorder. Finally we note with satisfaction that our entente with la belle France continues as of yore. We are especially glad this year of the company of Monsieur Gacher of the University of Strasbourg. His mastery of the English idiom convinces us that the French Government sent him to us for the twelve month less as a student than as an ambassador of goodwill.

## G.C.E. Results, 1953

### ORDINARY LEVEL.

FORM 5A:—J. D. Ainslie, E. Lang, E.Lit., Hist., Geo., French, Phys., Chem.; D. Barwell, E. Lang., E. Lit., Hist., Geog., Phys., Chem.; M. H. Brown, E. Lang., Art., Phys., Chem.; R. Carroll, E. Lit., Hist., Art, French, Maths, Phys., Chem.; A. G. Chambers, E. Lang., Art, French, Maths, Phys., Chem.; D. F. W. Cross, E. Lang, E. Lit., Hist., Geog., Latin, French, Maths, Phys., Chem.; J. E. Green, E. Lang., E. Lit., Hist., Art, Latin, French, Maths, Phys., Chem.; G. A. Haggerty, E. Lang., E. Lit., Geog., French, Phys., Chem.; D. H. Harris, E. Lang., E. Lit., Hist., Geog., French, Phys., Chem.; P. Heath, E. Lang., E. Lit., Hist., Geog., Latin, French, Maths, Phys. Chem.; A. S. Hodgson, E. Lang., Hist., Geog., Latin, French, Maths, Phys., Chem.; D.E.Horne, E.Lang, E.Lit., Hist., Art, Latin, French, Maths, Phys., Chem.; E.H.Hubbard, E. Lang, E. Lit., Hist., Art, French, Chem.; K. W. Jones, E. Lang, Hist., Art, French, Phys.; R. Lindop, E. Lang., E. Lit., Hist., Latin, French, Maths, Phys., Chem.; W. J. Longton, Hist., Maths., Chem.; I. Marrs, E. Lang., E. Lit., Hist., Geog., French, Maths, Phys., Chem.; D. M. Mathieson, E. Lit., Hist., French; D. G. Parsley, Art, French; J. Phipps, E. Lang, E. Lit., Hist., Latin, French, Maths, Phys.; P. G. Prodger, E. Lang., E. Lit., Hist., Geog., French, Maths, Phys., Chem.; R. D. Shearer, E. Lang, E. Lit., Hist., French, Phys.; M. J. E. Tudor, E. Lang., E. Lit., Hist., Geog., French, Maths, Phys. Chem.; N. J. Wilkinson, E. Lit., Geog., Chem.



FORM 5B:—H. C. Almond, E. Lang.; K. M. Barr, French, Maths, Woodwork; J. H. Baxter, E. Lang.; K. T. Booth, E. Lang., Hist., Maths, Woodwork; G. Connolly, E. Lang., Art, Woodwork; B. R. Cookson, E. Lang.; M. T. Dennis, E. Lang.; G. A. Doveston, E. Lang., E. Lit.; Art, French, Maths, Woodwork; W. H. Dunn, Art, Physics, Woodwork; R. G. Edwards, E. Lang., Hist.; A. H. Finney, E. Lit., Art, Maths, Woodwork; H. R. Hughes, E. Lang., E. Lit., Hist., French, Maths.; H. S. Hunt, E. Lit., Geog., Maths; D. R. Jackson, E. Lang., Art, Woodwork; D. A. Jones, E. Lang., Art, French, Maths, Phys.; W. A. Jones, E. Lang., E. Lit., Hist., Geog.; J. R. A. O'Hare, E. Lang., E. Lit., Hist., Maths.; B. G. Prendergrast, E. Lang.; B. Redwood, E. Lang., E. Lit., Art., Maths; J. G. Roberts, E. Lang., Geog., French, Maths; C. Slevin, E. Lang., E. Lit., Geog.; French; A. G. Telford, E. Lang., Maths, Woodwork; D. G. Williams, E. Lang., French, Maths, Chem.

FORM 6:—A. G. Roberts, E. Lang.

FORM ADV.:—G. Evans, E. Lang.

#### ADVANCED LEVEL.

FORM ADV.:—

B. Davies, Eng. Lit., Latin, French, Schol. French.

G. Evans, Maths, Physics, Chemistry.

T. S. Hodgson, Maths, Physics, Chemistry.

J. T. Hughes, Chemistry.

J. E. Jordan, Eng. Lit., Latin, French, Schol. French.

M. Marston, Physics, Biology.

K. Parry, Eng. Lit., History, French.

M. A. Parry, Physics, Chemistry.

H. Smith, Maths, Physics, Chemistry.

E. Taylor, Maths, Physics, Chemistry (Distinction), Schol. Physics.  
Schol. Chemistry.

R. Turner, Maths, Physics, Chemistry.

W. C. Weir, Geography, Physics, Schol. Geography.

We congratulate all these boys on their successes, a testimony to a great deal of good work, and we especially congratulate E. Taylor, who was awarded a State Scholarship for his outstanding results. Of the Advanced form, Evans and Marston are still at School, Hughes and N. A. Parry are in an industrial laboratory, Taylor has gone to the University of Manchester, and Hodgson to the University of Birmingham. The other six, Davies, Jordan, K. Parry, Smith, Turner, and Weir, have all entered the University of Liverpool. We wish them all the best of luck.

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## Athletic Sports

THIS year, the Athletic Sports were held on Saturday, June 4th, at the School Playing Fields, Ingleborough Road. It was a fine, sunny day, with a light breeze, and probably the best day selected for a Sports Day for a number of years. In view of this fact, the rather poor attendance by parents was disappointing—the Sports however, were certainly not; three existing records were broken, in the Senior Shot, where N. N. Jones put thirty-seven feet two inches; in the Open Mile, where Dodd clocked 4 minutes 53.8 seconds; and in the Senior High Jump, where H. Smith jumped five feet four inches.

The outstanding athlete of the afternoon was N. N. Jones who, winning eight events and scoring eighteen points, became Senior Victor Ludorum for the third successive year. The Junior Victor Ludorum was T. J. Walsh with sixteen points. Also for the third year in succession Atkin were champion House, with eight hundred and eleven points.

The afternoon closed with the usual distribution of prizes, kindly performed for us on this occasion by the Mayoress, Mrs. W. E. R. Short, in the presence of His Worship the Mayor and the School Governors.

The Ladies' Catering Committee again provided one of the superb teas for which they are noted, the outstanding success of which was a large cake bearing in icing of appropriate colours a Rugby pitch, complete with goal-posts, ball and touch lines, etc., together with a cricket pitch, bat and ball. The cake, which was cut by the Headmaster, earned praise for more than its appearance. The Ladies' Committee deserve the thanks of the School for their attendance and hard work not only on this but on countless occasions.

### RESULTS

1. CROSS COUNTRY (Senior): 1, T. A. Dodd; 2, J. G. Williamson; 3, D. Harris.
2. CROSS COUNTRY (Inter): 1, T. J. Walsh; 2, J. G. Smith; 3, K. Cundill.
3. CROSS COUNTRY (Junior): 1, D. L. Lee; 2, D. J. Humphries; 3, T. Jones.
4. SHOT (Senior): 1, N. N. Jones (School record, 37ft. 2ins.); 2, C. W. Weir; 3, H. Smith.
5. LONG JUMP (Senior): 1, R. Turner; 2, C. W. Weir; 3, T. A. Dodd.
6. 880 YARDS (Senior): 1, T. A. Dodd; 2, J. G. Williamson; 3, T. S. Hodgson.



7. HIGH JUMP (Senior): 1, H. Smith (School record, 5ft. 4ins); 2, R. Turner; 3, B. Haughton.
8. 880 YARDS (Inter): 1, T. J. Walsh; 2, J. G. Smith; 3, M. K. Porter.
9. 440 YARDS (Junior): 1, D. L. Lee; 2, D. W. Wylie; 3, A. Dixon.
10. LONG JUMP (Junior): 1, C. Colley; 2, E. Fildes; 3, R. R. Blackwell.
11. CRICKET BALL (Inter): 1, J. G. Smith; 2, D. F. Jones; 3, E. Hewitt.
12. CRICKET BALL (Senior): 1, N. N. Jones; 2, D. Mathieson; 3, C. W. Weir.
13. LONG JUMP (Inter.): 1, M. K. Porter; 2, E. Hewitt; 3, K. Cundill.
14. 100 YARDS (Junior): 1, D. L. Lee; 2, P. Darlington; 3, C. Colley.
15. CRICKET BALL (Junior): 1, C. Colley; 2, P. Darlington; 3, E. Fildes.
16. 100 YARDS (Inter): 1, M. K. Porter; 2, T. J. Walsh; 3, J. G. Smith.
17. 100 YARDS (Senior): 1, N. N. Jones; 2, C. W. Weir; 3, D. Mathieson.
19. HIGH JUMP (Junior): 1, D. L. Lee; 2, M. Quinn; 3, J. Irwin.
20. 220 YARDS (Senior): 1, N. N. Jones; 2, C. W. Weir; 3, D. Mathieson.
22. JAVELIN (Senior): 1, N. N. Jones; 2, D. Mathieson; 3, A. Hodgson.
23. 220 YARDS (Junior): 1, D. L. Lee; 2, T. M. McDonnell; 3, P. Darlington.
24. HIGH JUMP (Inter): 1, M. K. Porter; 2, T. J. Walsh; 3, K. Cundill.
26. 220 YARDS (Inter): 1, T. J. Walsh; 2, E. Hewitt; 3, J. G. Smith.
27. HOUSE OBSTACLE (Inter): 1, Atkin; 2, Stitt.
28. 440 YARDS (Senior): 1, N. N. Jones; 2, C. W. Weir; 3, A. Hodgson.
29. DISCUS (Inter): 1, J. G. Smith; 2, L. Dick; 3, Whittington.
31. 440 YARDS (Inter): 1, T. J. Walsh; 2, J. G. Smith; 3, M. K. Porter.
32. DISCUS (Senior): 1, T. S. Hodgson; 2, A. Finney; 3, C. W. Weir.
33. HOUSE OBSTACLE (Final): 1, Tate; 2, Stitt.
34. MILE (Open): 1, T. A. Dodd (School record, 4 mins. 53.8 secs); 2, B. Walsh; 3, D. Harris.
35. RELAY (Junior): 1, Stitt; 2, Atkin; 3, Tate.
36. RELAY (Inter): 1, Tate; 2, Stitt; 3, Atkin.
37. RELAY (Senior): 1, Westminster; 2, Atkin; 3, Tate.
38. TUG OF WAR: 1, Atkin; 2, Stitt.

VICTOR LUDORUM: N. N. Jones (18 points).

Runner-up: C. W. Weir (12 points).

JUNIOR VICTOR LUDORUM: T. J. Walsh (16 points).

Runner-up: D. L. Lee (15 points).

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP: 1, Atkin, 881 points; 2, Westminster, 670 points; 3, Tate, 639 points; 4, Stitt, 638 points.

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## A Trip Abroad

WHEN the School broke up last July, all arrangements had been completed, all monies collected, all reservations made, all passports stamped, all pocket money changed into French money and sorted into separate lots in preparation for the visit of twenty-seven boys, in charge of Mr. Webb and Mr. Malcolm, to Paris, leaving Birkenhead on Wednesday, 26th August.

On Friday, 28th August, the party left—but not for Paris. The strikes and social upheaval in France had made travel in that country too much of an adventure for a school party; so the organisers were left with a difficult choice; to cancel the trip, disappointing twenty-seven boys and perhaps upsetting many family holiday arrangements, or to find some other place to receive us.

After two days of telephoning and sending telegrams to various holiday places, it was found possible to arrange an alternative trip; so we left, two days' late it is true, for Belgium, meeting at 10-30 p.m. on a dark, wet Friday, to catch the over-night bus to London, going thence by train to Dover and across the Channel to Ostend.

We arrived in London early, had time to recover from the long session in a cramped position, and then found our reserved places on the train.

At Dover, thanks to the conspicuous School uniform in which every boy travelled, the party quickly passed through the passport control, hurried aboard amongst the first, and established itself in deck chairs on the top open deck—congratulating itself on being able to sit in comfort, while later arrivals were left to crowd in where possible. However, when we left, and when heavy rain began to fall, we found that we were hemmed in by these late arrivals and had to get wet while they reposed in shelter.

A few hours later we arrived at Ostend, a little wet, but with spirits not damped. Here we were met, escorted through passport and Customs controls with great speed, and conveyed by motor-coach to our hotel at Blankenberge. Here we were most comfortably housed and extremely well fed.

But enterprise soon showed itself. Before we had been in the town for an hour, some of the younger boys, not particularly noted for their linguistic achievements had managed to discover and hire a four-seater pedal-driven vehicle in which they toured the district.



Our first full day, Sunday, was spent in local exploration and in solving the mysteries of Belgian currency. It was amazing to see how boys normally reluctant to do the smallest calculation rapidly acquired facility in mental arithmetic when it came to a little private financial transaction.

Monday, an extremely hot, sunny day, we spent on a whole day trip to Bruges. After an exciting trip in a train into which some sixty English schoolboys managed to force a way, although there was officially room for only ten passengers, we toured this fine city. We were shown the chief places of interest, enjoyed a trip in a motor-launch on the canals, and climbed to the top of the famous belfry. An attempt to interest the party in the picture gallery and a history of the Flemish School of painting was not entirely successful; and it was a great relief to some of the boys when they were allowed to wander off without escort.

Our second full day, Tuesday, we passed amusing ourselves in Blankenberge, bathing, playing on the beach, and in seeing one another perform acrobatics on an amusing cycle-track supplied with every possible shape and size of two-wheeled vehicle. Some drifted into amusement arcades to try their skill on American slot machines, others played football on the sands, and were surprised to find the staff joining in all their activities with just as much skill as themselves.

The following day we set off early by road for the capital, Brussels, a long journey in hot, sultry conditions. After a rapid tour of the city, a quick packed lunch, a few minutes to wander about on our own, we were off on the return journey, with a halt this time at Ghent, to visit the Cathedral with its famous paintings by the brothers Van Eyck, and the Castle of the Counts, the ruins of a mediaeval castle which, after a chequered career, is now municipal property and contains a collection of torture implements in which most boys showed sadistic delight. It was here that two members of the party got lost and, although we at first wondered whether some other member of the party might not have been trying out some of the torture implements, it was not so; for they turned up after a while.

On Thursday we set out for what proved to be the most popular trip—a visit by coach to Holland, crossing by ferry the mouth of the Scheldt to the Island of Walcheren, and visiting Flushing and Middelburg on market day. Here old Dutch costume is still occasionally seen, but the visitors this day were given another sight—our coach strangely attired with the under and outer garments of a foolish young

B.I. boy who thought he could cross one of the canals by walking on floating logs. He could not do so but, thanks to ready help, he survived to commit no worse misdeeds than to lose his landing ticket at Dover, and to get almost run over in front of Buckingham Palace on our return through London!

Our last full day was spent in shopping, making a list of purchases for the benefit of Customs Officers, and in visiting the War Museum at Zeebrugge, which we reached after a walk along the sands. This museum is of special interest to all British visitors, but to none more than to visitors from Merseyside.

Early Saturday morning we left for England and home. Some boys were a little worried about how they would do up their cases after the Customs Officers had finished their rummaging; but, in fact, we had a quick, comfortable crossing, and walked straight through the Customs Control, occupied our reserved seats in the train, and arrived in London about 5 p.m. We left our luggage at the bus depot, made our way to the West End to try a meal in one of the largest self-service restaurants, and then set off on a conducted tour of the more important land-marks.

After an uneventful overnight journey we arrived early on Sunday morning in Birkenhead, and dispersed.

Throughout the tour the behaviour of the School Party had been excellent in spite of some juvenile high spirits. Boys responded well to rules of dress and times of meals and of signing-in, and not only enjoyed themselves all the more for this, but also gained the School a good name at the hotel and with the organising agency. E.G.W.

## Coronation Cup

1952-1953

	Atkin		Stitt		Tate		Westminster	
Athletics .....	1st	6	4th	0	3rd	2	2nd	4
Chess .....	2nd	2	1st	3	4th	0	3rd	1
Cricket .....	2nd	3	4th	0	1st	6	2nd	3
Cross Country .....	1st	6	3rd	2	4th	0	2nd	4
Mark Sheets:								
Christmas .....	2nd	4	4th	0	1st	6	3rd	2
Easter .....	1st	6	4th	0	2nd	4	3rd	2
Summer .....	2nd	4	4th	0	1st	6	3rd	2
Rugby .....	2nd	4	4th	0	1st	6	3rd	2
Table Tennis .....	2nd	2	4th	0	1st	3	3rd	1
Total .....	3	...	5	...	33	...	21	

The Coronation Cup was won by Atkin House.

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**W**HY, by taking a few hints from our entertaining national advertisers! Consider, for example, a typically bald text-book statement like "Candle Clocks were invented during the time of Alfred the Great." This is crude stuff. It needs wrapping up a bit; it wants some sales pep talk behind it to wear down customer resistance. The modern way of putting it across might by one of the following:—

1. **THE HISTORICO-DISCURSIVE METHOD.** "When your great-great-grandmother wore woad and when Hengist and Horsa were appearing twice nightly at Weston-super-Mare Pavilion, Mugg first made candle clocks."
2. **THE GOSSIPY HIGH LEVEL.** "Make a clock," said Cedric the Purple. It was the inimitable Cedric, celebrated for his massacres, fancy waistcoats, and unpunctuality, who in the year 850 said to the first John Mugg, "Make a clock." Muggs have been making them ever since in their famous hut behind the second milestone on the wrong side of Glastonbury.
3. **THE PATRIOTICO-IRRELEVANT** (accompanying a reproduction of "The Stag at bay," Frith's "Paddington Station," or any other artistic subject conspicuously unconnected with Mugg and Co.) "Britain, second home of the Vikings, where men respect tradition and are never more than two hours late for an appointment. Where they use Mugg's Candle Clocks."
4. **THE FEMINA-GLAMOURO** (Any pin-up of a ninth century blonde with a few screened swineherds at a respectful distance could go with this). "Ethelfrida is preparing to be a Punctual Lady. She times herself by Mugg's Candle Clocks."
5. **THE BOSS PERSONAL TOUCH.** John Mugg (depicted so benevolent and disinterested as to leave no doubt whatever in the mind of the reader that the portrait is of somebody else) has met a satisfied client in the middle of a fashionable swamp, "Tell ye time ye, Mugg way."
6. **THE 'SAVED FROM THE WRECK' DODGE.** Lady Edith has just been snubbed at an Olde Tyme Dance for appearing in fancy dress as the Venerable Bede. Several churls are whispering about her with expressions of horror. She is next seen asking a candid friend, "Why does

Ethelbald shun me these days?" An intimate conference follows, resulting 'some days later' in Edith taking the Witan Polka Club's Dane-geld Charities Ball by storm. "Edith always turns up on the right night now, since she started using Mugg's Candle Clocks."

7. THE FAMILY RETAINER IN THE WODEHOUSIAN MODE. Earl Wulfric (looking liverish and addressing his bailiff Pawkins) "The old mace swings from a most butter-fingered paw latterly. I noticed a distinctly frosty atmosphere when I arrived with my levies shortly after half-time at the battle of Stamford Bridge":

Pawkins (with a nice mixture of bland assurance and feudal self-effacement) "I have taken the precaution, puissant sire, to include a small case of Mugg's Candle Clocks in the baggage for your next engagement in the Mercia Cup."

Wulfric: "I refrain from any obvious crack, most indispensable vassal, about burning the perishing things at both ends."

And, finally, the advertisers masterpiece:—

8 THE HISTORICO NIGHTCAP FORMULA, in six episodes:

(a) King Alfred: "Look at my in-tray; Has anyone seen Secretary Egbert?"

(b) (very much later). Enter Egbert who, after a brief royal explosion, is competently thrown out into the road.

(c) Egbert (elsewhere and addressing his favourite boar hound)

"Something wrong with me. Never know what day it is.

Wonder if I'll get disembowelled?"

(d) Egbert (seen consulting a witch in a cave) "... and so I'm always late nowadays."

Witch (very expansively) "You are suffering from day and night botheration. Now if you only had a . . ."

(e) Egbert (recumbent in the boar hound's kennel and surrounded by candle clocks) with feeling: "Good old Mugg."

(f) Last Scene. Alfred and the Thegns discovered all of a heap at Egbert's arrival a mere fifty minutes late at a cabinet meeting: "Egbert will be just the chap for that new job of sports columnist on the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle."

Egbert (taking his last bow and wearing his Sunday chain mail)  
"Thanks, Alf." (Thinks: 'Thanks to Mugg').

W.E.W.



\* \* \* \* \*

THOSE who consider that the recent season's cricket reached its climax at the Oval could not have been present at Ingleborough Road on Wednesday, July 22nd, to watch a classic Staff innings against the First XI. England selectors who were toying that night with the notion of approaching Mr. D. Hughes and Mr. Davies, must have regretted that the Staff, rashly seeking to repeat the performance on the following afternoon, forfeited our domestic Ashes.

\* \* \* \* \*

It will be of great interest to our readers to know that an old Instonian, Geoffrey Massey, is serving as an Engine Room Officer in H.M.S. "Surprise"—the despatch vessel in which her Majesty inspected the fleet this year. This ship, known irreverently to the Service as "a marine taxi for V.I.P.s," is at present on duty in the Mediterranean. Her trips with distinguished persons have taken Massey to Naples, Athens, and Constantinople. His experiences have amply justified his choice of a career, which began when he passed the R.N. examination for apprentice artificers at Devonport.

\* \* \* \* \*

The arrival of a rug, a fender, and a fireside companion set, have continued to make the Staff Room a little less like a cell for doubtful aliens on Ellis Island. As our whole community will tend to benefit from the geniality inspired by such home comforts, it is to be hoped that further articles of cosy domesticity will be added from time to time. A brass toasting-fork, a ham hanging from the rafters, and a canary (warbling Bach's Giant Fugue) are tentative suggestions. Those in favour of the introduction of a cat have been convinced, at length, that he would see so little of the fire as to render his appointment superfluous.



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An innovation this term has been the holding at School of a Supplementary Examination for the General Certificate. Though an exact replica in miniature of the June Grand Slam, it has to be admitted that it has little of the majesty of its sire. Its victims are unknown (except to a select circle) and are deprived of the public salute accorded to those who pass through the fiery furnace in the gym. But it is a useful examination, nevertheless, in helping pupils to supplement their certificates during the close season.

\* \* \* \* \*

Gordon Hipkin, who is now employed in Canada, recently paid us a welcome visit. Since leaving School he has travelled widely in Canada and the United States of America. We congratulate him on his recent appointment as Branch Manager for Messrs. Bedford and Co., Tool Manufacturers, of Sheffield. In October, Gordon played for a representative Toronto Rugby team against Montreal, the result being a draw 3—3. Since Gordon's return to Canada his father, Mr. Hipkin, has very kindly presented to the Chess Club a handsome set of chess men to commemorate the happy days spent by Gordon at the Birkenhead Institute. We wish to thank Mr. Hipkin for the gift and the thought which prompted it.

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ATKIN	STITT	TATE	W MINSTER
			
HOUSE NOTES			

### ATKIN

**L**AST year the House was first in Athletics, the Cross Country runs, and the Easter Mark Sheet, and second in Chess, Rugby, Cricket, Table Tennis, and both the Christmas and Summer Mark Sheets. The result was that Atkin won the Coronation Cup for the third successive year.

The Autumn term is one in which there is not much activity amongst the Houses. There have been two senior Rugby games, however. In the first, which was played against Stitt, the team won by the comfortable margin of 35 points to 6 points. Dodd, K. Jones, and Harris, showed their ability to take the chances that were offered, and Hodgson scored 12 points by his kicks. In the second match, played against Tate, the team won by 21 points to 9 points. The forwards worked well together, and Hodgson, Pritchard, and Harris, took their opportunities and made full use of them.

It is next term when most of the competitions take place. Everyone, particularly those in the junior forms, will have to make an effort if Atkin is to be successful this year.

A.G.R.

### STITT.

**T**HE ranks of the masters belonging to Stitt have been further depleted by the loss of Mr. Jones, who has become our Headmaster. The House's loss, however, is the School's gain.

R. Turner, last year's captain, is to be thanked for his services to the House during his term of office.

There is not much to report in the way of out-of-school activities this term. The Seniors have played two games this term. In the match against Atkin, they lost quite heavily by 35 points to 6, being completely outplayed by their opponents. In the second match, against Westminster, although they again lost, this time by 26 points to 13, they played

more as a team, and the forwards completely outplayed their opponents. The most outstanding player in the team has been H. S. Jones, who has given excellent service to his house.

It is to be hoped that this year the House will improve on their lowly position in the Coronation Cup Competition by a greater all-round effort from every member.

I.M.

#### TATE.

SO far this term Tate have not shown the form of which they are capable; and unless the House as a whole decides to pull its socks up and maintain and even surpass the fine form of the last two years, then, to borrow a phrase, it is going to be a contestant for the wooden spoon.

Last year Tate won the Rugby, Cricket, and Table Tennis competitions, and if these feats are to be repeated a great effort must be made throughout the year by the Senior members, together with good backing from the Juniors.

The Autumn marksheet is only a matter of weeks away, so that, if you wish to see Tate at the top, as we were last Autumn, then now is your chance to put your backs into it.

#### WESTMINSTER.

In Westminster this year, Mr. Webb is again House Master, and N. N. Jones succeeds J. E. Jordan as House Captain. Six of the twelve School Prefects are from Westminster: N. N. Jones, G. M. Evans, W. N. Bryant, J. G. Williamson, B. A. Haughton, D. Mathieson.

Last year Westminster finished third in the Coronation Cup. This was not through any lack of enthusiasm on the part of the House-Captain, whose fine efforts, indeed, deserved a better reward, but rather because of the general lethargy that has been prevalent in the House in the last few years. There can be no doubt that Westminster possesses the same potential ability as the cock house, Atkin, but has certainly not displayed the same team spirit and "will to win" that Atkin has shown.

However, there have already been signs of returning enthusiasm in the house, in Rugby at all events; no fewer than five boys are regular members of the 1st XV.: N. Jones, D. Mathieson, B. Lloyd, Wilkinson; whilst another five all play for the 2nd XV.: G. M. Evans, Phipps, Walsh, Williamson, and Horne. At the time of going to the press, two of the senior House Rugby matches have been played, and both have been won. Stitt were beaten by 26 pts. to 11 pts.; and Tate by 25 pts. to 6 pts. The key match will be against Atkin since they too have won both their matches.



In other spheres of School life W. N. Bryant and F. W. Taylor play regularly for the Chess first team, and Sampson, Miller, Haughton, and Moyes, have played for the second team.

Finally, I should like to impress it upon the whole House that the Marksheets—two per term for three terms—are probably the deciding factor in the Coronation Cup. A mediocre performance such as that put up last year meant that we obtained six points out of a possible eighteen. If the new boys particularly are determined right from the start to put their backs into their academic work, I have no doubt we shall reap a rich reward.

N.N.J.

### *Libraria*

THE Autumn term has once more slipped away with its usual tranquillity, and there has not even been the traditional fall of snow with which the hardy enemies of the prefects might have wreaked a gleeful revenge. The term, of course, was tinged with sadness since we saw no more the kindly face of Mr. Harris, who, for as long as we can remember, was one of the most popular members of the Staff and was always ready with a word of encouragement even to the worst boys—that meant *us*, once! We miss him very much, and hope that the Autumn of his life may be a happy one.

As the trio who comprise our set all belong to Westminster House, we can recall with pride one of our most brilliant pupils: now that E. E. L. Mitchell has completed his National Service, he has started his University studies as a Scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge, and we should like to take this opportunity of wishing him every success. Br\*\*nt was observed furtively writing a letter addressed to Cambridge, whereupon one of his companions rather facetiously asked him if he was imploring Mitchell to reserve a place for him!

One morning we were delighted by a visit to the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, which gave us its impressions on the breathing of a Giant, not in athletic trim, trying to climb a ladder.

The mention of music reminds me that two of our number have, for some unaccountable reason, steered clear of Mr. H\*gh\*s, the new music master; for he has laid it down that all who *can* should feature in his 'Early Morning Medley Show': these two have plaintively insisted that they *cannot*.

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According to the local newspapers we have a 'fourteen-stone cyclone' in our midst: we unite in congratulating N\*b\* on his great performances for the School Rugby Team this season, he having scored no fewer than twenty tries in nine games: he looks well set for a School record

Finally, we extend a cordial welcome to the mammoth Lower Sixth attending—bodily at any rate—Mr. W\*ll\*ms's vastly entertaining History lectures. Their presence has however reminded us—much to our surprise—that *we* are not the only budding W\*w's on the beach, Percy and Cuthbert, on numerous occasions, having stolen the thunder from our grasp. And now, in the words of a local celebrity, 'So long!'

W.N.B.

## Science Notes

HAVING at last reached the zenith of our life in this sacred building, we are now rejoicing in our rule of terror. No longer do we use our intellectual abilities in the Nazi language, but put them to a more profitable use (i.e. shove ha'penny). We have added experience owing to the presence of two older members among us and have established an effective way of keeping the School quiet.

We inhabit, of course, the sacred room which few dare to enter and, apart from a few visits from Mr. M——, we enjoy ourselves in whatever occupation we choose. Even the Arts mob hardly dare to put so much as their noses round our door, and even if they dare to enter there are several names on the list of missing or wounded!

To come to more serious matters, we now realize that we are expected to work for once, and the G.C.E. spells much fear for those who ever think of it. However, some members of our lot have even been known to start swatting (N.B. not swotting), and the surprise which some members of Staff will soon receive will have to be seen to be believed.

The task of writing for the *Visor* is always a difficult one; for we have so many secrets that we have to let some out for the School to know; we only hope that the reader will not take us too seriously or too literally;

Having given you all our news, we bid you all a hearty Adieu! ,

B.A.H.

## Form Notes

6A.

THIS term, when the remnant of "our year" who have lived in peace together for half a decade, returned to the Institute to the strains of hymn number one hundred and sixty-two, and to the usual innovations and alterations which take place in September—emphasised now by the change of Headmastership—we found that the inevitable split between Arts and Science had taken place.

When the pleasant novelty of being Sixth-formers and all that this entails had somewhat worn off, we were able to look around us, and we found that Mr. Allison is joint form-master of 6S and ourselves, that Mathieson had been made a prefect, and that four of our members—Jones, Lindop, Mathieson and Phipps—play in the Rugby teams. Ainslie is the Honorary Rugby Secretary.

When the cold weather came, we found that our electric radiator did not work, but this was soon put right. Our room is situated in the building that through ancient custom (though rather degrading to us) is called the Junior School. This is an early Victorian house in which 6S and we occupy rooms on opposite sides of the hallway. It would be gratifying to mention here the pleasant view from our high, north-facing sash windows, and how we enjoy it; unfortunately this cannot be said; for if any of us ever look out (which is doubtful) our view of the dilapidated but once fine residential property which surrounds the School is obscured by the erection called the dining-room, situated in our neglected garden.

Our room is hardly a pleasant one to work in, but most of our daily toil is done in the *sanctum sanctorum* of the Library.

In spite of the two years' hard labour looming ahead of us, we think life in 6A is very pleasant. E.H.H.

6S

DEAR Mr. Editor,

Here follow the form notes of 6S. You asked for something serious and of high quality; we are afraid you are going to be doubly disappointed. We could not crush our irrepressible wit, and you must accept some chaff with the corn (joke).

There are eleven in the form, which is well represented in the School teams. Nearly all members of the form have represented the School in some sphere. We possess seventy-five per cent. of the Lower Sixth prefects, and it is interesting to note that, of the usual first five pupils

in our mark-sheets, one is a part native of Greenock and the others of Lanark, Sale, Stockport and Tunbridge Wells. Several others in the form are of doubtful origin, and H\*gg\*\*ty is considering dissecting them to discover it.

Two of our members, who answer to the names of "Gert" and "Bloggs," are now official students of biology. The former takes a great interest in the zoology section of his studies, so much so that, when we found him "shuttling" back and forth between here and West Kirby, we were not at all surprised to learn the reason. (Knowing him as we do, we should have taken him to the doctor if he had been going there for any other purpose). Our other happy non-physics scientist blends his biology with organic chemistry, performing many interesting experiments on the combustion of nicotine, tea-leaves, etc.

Our mighty mathematician, "Honk," is a truly ardent follower of his science, to such an extent that he has often been chastised for reading his book of logarithms in Sunday school.

"McTavish," our noble warrior and haggis-basher, has turned his mind to a correspondence course, and has many times blushed when tactless people have asked why there are so many "Chris"-crosses at the end of his letters. Another with similar thoughts at the back of his mind (?) is our sorcerer's apprentice, who, owing to his keen interest in the U.N.A. and certain schools connected with this (dis)organisation, knows more about Cheshire than anyone else in the form (and he still keeps that telephone number dark, the mean \*\*!). The aforementioned interest in politics is common to others in our form, one of whom is X, a youth who, along with "the mad professor," spends most of his spare time kicking things round the form room. The latter person is indeed an animal of great interest; we have often considered selling him to a psychiatrist or somebody searching for the missing link. You (the rabble) have probably seen him thundering to school at a breath taking 5 m.p.h. on his iron steed (a motorised cycle).

"Jeg" is an ardent follower of the Monroe Doctrine, and the sole supporter of the pre-half-term system of dinners. (This is because he had an excuse to rush to the dinner room to watch the departure of the 12-25 goods). His interests are drawing, politics, talking, and guess what. "Du\*xy", the handsome man of the form, has been in much trouble lately after the disappearance of large quantities of hydrogen peroxide from the lab. "Mickey," our not-so-modest violet, is another who finds politics interesting for non-political reasons. He says table-tennis is the only thing in his life, but we think otherwise. And so we come to our No. 11, "Stan," who, we regret to announce, is "figgerin'



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He had motored into the desert with some friends, and they noticed a gigantic, cigar-shaped, silvery ship without any wings or appendages of any sort. This ship was orange on top along its whole length, shining in the sun's rays, and had an unknown badge on its side.

After he had noticed a scout ship, which was a 'saucer,' land some distance from him, he saw a man emerge from the mouth of a ravine. This man was wearing trousers like ski-trousers, and hair down to his shoulders, was very handsome, and appeared very young.

They spoke for an hour by means of mental pictures and miming, during which time Adamski learnt that the stranger came from Venus. He said they had come to earth, and indeed many were living normal earth lives, in order to study radio-active radiations from the earth, which were stronger in space than in the earth's atmosphere. He also stated that the people of Venus are more advanced, both religiously and mentally, than we, and, having followed God's commandments more closely than we, were therefore nearer to God and lived happier lives.

This man warned Adamski not to touch the 'saucer,' but he did and received a shock which put his arm out of action for many months afterwards. The visitor from space asked for one of his photographic plates, and Adamski gave him one. The plate was later returned, but with the addition of hieroglyphics which seemed to be illustrations of how the ship was powered. At the end of the hour the stranger from space returned to his 'saucer' and departed. Adamski's friends took plaster casts of the stranger's footprints.

In case anyone doubts his words, Adamski has numerous photographs, one of which has been shown on Television; and the United States' government holds a movie picture of a formation of 'saucers' during manoeuvres. We have Adamski's word only for the actual meeting (his friends went away when he asked them to), and, of course, the photographs, but these could be faked. Do you believe him?

## 5B

**T**HIS year the form is well represented in the School Rugby XV's.

Burnell and Smith have played for the first team; Bell, Hewitt, Beaumont, Thompson, Dennis, Walsh, Jones, D. F., and Riley, have all played in the second team.

The form is quite large, and submitted twenty contributions for the magazine. Outstanding amongst these are the following.

We begin with an article by T. Reynolds, entitled,

### THE HUMMING BIRD.

The humming bird is the smallest bird alive, and has the most brilliant feathers. It is the only bird that can fly vertically, sideways, and backwards. It can fly at over a mile a minute, and makes great journeys from South America to Canada or the United States.

This bird is a tireless fighter, and can drive off birds as large as crows. Its weapon is a long needle-like bill, with which it attacks its enemies' eyes. The humming bird eats insects on the wing, but it also exists on the nectar of flowers.

The eggs of this bird are snow-white in colour and hatch in two weeks. Three weeks later, the young birds are ready to leave the nest. Each tiny bird lifts its wings and beats them until they form a halo around its head; but it does not rise. Instead, it falls back into the nest, exhausted. Usually, after the second attempt, the bird takes the air.

A few tropical species have been heard to sing in tiny insect-like voices. The humming is not due to a noise from the throat, but is caused by the bird beating its wings.

There were five articles on the subject of aeroplanes, the best of which was R. G. Thompson's contribution.

### THE WORLD AIRSPEED RECORDS.

The last six attempts at the world airspeed record have all been within the last three years. The first three were set up by American Sabre jet-fighters and the fourth by Squadron Leader Neville Duke, in the sleek, scarlet-coloured Hawker Hunter. The engine installed was a Rolls-Royce Avon, which attained a speed of 727 m.p.h. Incidentally, three or four weeks later this aircraft claimed the closed-circuit record over 100 km., the speed being 709.2 m.p.h. The fifth record was set up in Libya by "Mike Lithgow" in a blue-coloured, Supermarine Swift fighter—again with a Rolls-Royce Avon engine. The latest record was set up by Lieutenant Commander Verdin, an American, in a Douglas Skyray Delta fighter, powered by one Westinghouse J. 40 turbo-jet. His record was set up at Salton Sea, Southern California. As the Skyray streaked across the sky, at 100 ft. above sea-level, the speed gradually crept up to 753 m.p.h.

The last contribution comes from A. Macdonald, who enlightens us on the subject of

### WATCHES.

A large watch is far more accurate than a small one, because the mechanisms are easier to make, and therefore more accurate. Most people prefer a convenient wrist-watch to a pocket-watch, which is a better time-keeper. It is surprising that a wrist-watch can be anything like accurate, considering the movement and disturbance it encounters. A man's average-sized watch should be cleaned every two years, and a smaller watch should be attended to every eighteen months.

### 4A.

**E**NJOYING a rest from his Chess exertions, P. Jones finds time to tell us about

### PENRHYN CASTLE.

Penrhyn Castle is situated one mile east of Bangor between the coast and road A5. It was handed over to the National Trust in 1951 by Lady Jane Pelham. The castle has been a fortified building since the fifteenth century when a royal licence was granted to build a fortified tower as an extension of an already existing building. The main staircase, made by local craftsmen and carved out of slate from the Bethesda slate quarries, took about seven years to build. The castle contains over two hundred bedrooms and forty bathrooms. It also affords a wonderful view of the surrounding countryside from the top of the keep. The park, with its magnificent timber, provides the foreground. Beaumaris Bay and Great Orme's Head are to the north, and westwards lies Anglesey, while Snowdonia lies to the east and south.

Stephens continues with his article on

### ST. CROSS.

Many centuries ago, when the pilgrims arrived at Southampton on their way to Winchester, their first stopping place was at St. Cross, where they each received a tankard of beer, a piece of bread and a piece of cheese: this was called the Wayfarer's Dole. On one side of the green stands the Church, which is still famous because the frame of each of its windows is of a different pattern. On another side of the green are the cottages of the brothers: the rich brothers wore purple, and the poor brothers black. On the opposite side to these cottages are the kitchens, and to reach them you have to climb a stairway above which is a window with the date, in old English, when it was founded: ISLO means, in modern English, 1476. The buildings are still in good condition.

Finally, Lutner writes a most interesting article on:

## THE TOOTH WORSHIPPED BY FOUR HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE.

A piece of discoloured bone about two inches long and an inch in diameter is the object of unbounded reverence by nearly one-fifth of the earth's inhabitants. Four hundred million Buddhists affirm that this piece of bone is the eyetooth of Gautama Buddha, founder of the Buddhist faith. It stands upon a golden lotus within a series of bell-shaped shrines, encrusted with rubies and festooned with golden chains, and rests on a massive silver table. The tooth, it is claimed, was salvaged from Buddha's funeral pyre in 545 B.C.; it was brought to Ceylon from Southern India eight hundred years later. For many years it served as the marriage portion of high-born and particularly well-favoured Singalese princesses: no other girls in history have ever boasted of such a dowry. Even to-day, a hundred thousand pilgrims visit the tooth annually from all four corners of the earth, and they lavish on it gifts of gold, silver, and jewels.

4B.

WE commence with an article by D. Jones on

### A VISIT TO SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW.

The Southport Flower Show is one of the largest horticultural shows in Britain, and one day last summer I had the great pleasure of visiting it. The show is held in August, and is about a mile from the railway station.

Arriving at the entrance we saw a long queue patiently waiting to go in. On entering the ground, we found that there were many people and display stands, and, of course, show-tents. The first item we visited was the Rock Gardens, which had miniature trees and artificial bridges over meandering streams. Then we entered the great marquee. Here my main interest was in the cactus display, there being all kinds of cacti, large and small, and the flowers such as asters and dahlias.

In another tent vegetables were displayed in triangles and stars. Another tent was for home-made bottled fruits, honey, chutney, and pickles. For outside entertainment there were horse-jumping and horse-trotting. There were also sheep dog events as well as dog shows, and one or two buildings where bottling and pruning were demonstrated free of charge. By the time I had visited every corner and had seen every item, the day was drawing to its close.

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Next we have an article by D. D. Garnham on

### CAMPA NOLOGY.

Campanology is the ancient art of bell-ringing, which is now carried on over the whole world to call people to worship. I am learning to become a bell-ringer at St. Mary's Church, the Parish Church of Birkenhead.

There is a peal of six bells which are called treble 2, 3, 4, 5, tenor. When they are started ringing, the person who is ringing the treble says, "Treble going—gone," and for twenty minutes the bells ring, until about five minutes before the service, when the tenor rings alone.

The bells were first rung at St. Mary's in 1901 and are still being rung now, and for all I know they might still be rung for centuries more.

Finally we have a contribution from G. Evans about

### FAMOUS PLACES IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

When I was in the Isle of Man with the Scouts this year, we went on a coach trip round the Island. On the way we saw many famous and interesting places. The first we saw was the place where the famous T.T. rider, Les Graham, was killed; next the Bishop's Palace, where all the Island's laws are passed. Other places we saw were; Peel Castle, or at least the ruins, Port Erin's Fish hatcheries, Rushen Abbey Gardens, which are full of peacocks and are famous for the twelve skeletons found there; Douglas horse trams, the airport outside Douglas; the start of the T.T. and the waterwheel outside the small town of Laxey. This trip lasted six hours, and we stopped four times altogether, at the towns of Peel, Port Erin, Castletown and Rushen Abbey. It was very pleasant and everyone enjoyed it; for we luckily had fine weather except on the high ground, where there was slight fog.

3A.

WE begin with an article by A. Barrett-Jolley which he calls

### THE WEATHER OF WIRRAL.

Since November 1952 I have been keeping a record of the weather experienced in this area. Details have been kept of temperature—for which I have a thermometer permanently outside my home—cloud formation, wind speed and direction.

A system known as the Beaufort scale is used as an indication of the wind velocity. This scale uses numbers 0 to 12 to denote the speeds. For example, number 2 means 4 to 7 miles per hour, and number 8 means 39 to 40 miles per hour.

I have to judge visibility from my bedroom window. I can see a distance of four or five miles, but when visibility is greater, I can judge very roughly by the clearness of some trees about two miles away.

The lowest evening temperatures I have recorded were on December 26th, 1952, and on January 4th, 1953, when it was twenty-six degrees Fahrenheit. The highest temperature was on June 13th, when the evening temperature at nine p.m. was seventy four degrees Fahrenheit.

Since June 16th of this year I have recorded only one day with absolutely no cloud whatever. Quite often there have been days in which there were traces of cumulus cloud in the morning or evening, but, as they are convection clouds, they soon disperse.

The poorest day for visibility since the beginning of March was September 24th, when it was down to five yards.

On October 27th there were very high winds. I recorded by observation of trees, etc., forty-five to fifty miles per hour.

"Records of rainfall have not been kept, as the closeness of trees would give inaccurate results.

I enjoy this hobby, and all being well I intend to continue my records for the next year at least.

Next, W. N. Humphreys tells us how he spent Coronation Morning, 1953.

On June 2nd I awoke at 4-30 a.m. and cycled along to Bidston Hill, where a service of greeting the dawn to commemorate the coronation of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. had been arranged by the Boy Scout Association. It was a beautiful morning. The service was held by the windmill, and there were about one hundred Scouts and Guides there in uniform. A few flags had been made fast to the sails of the windmill. The service took about half an hour.

After the service a pressman took some photographs of a group of Scouts round the District Commissioner. At about 5-30 a.m. I left Bidston Hall, came home, and went back to bed for a while, getting up in time to see the coronation on television.

Finally R. F. Salmon tells us about

#### EARLY STAMPS.

Great Britain, as many stamp collectors know, was the first country to issue postage stamps. The first stamp issued was the "Penny Black," as it is known to philatelists. It was issued in the year 1840, and showed Queen Victoria's head in white on a black background.

The first indication of the collection of stamps appeared a few years later, when a young lady living in London amassed several thousands of the popular stamps, and papered one of her ceilings with them. This then became a fashion, and several people, chiefly female, framed the stamps or decorated rooms with them.

The first real collection, that is a collection of stamps from different countries, came a little time after this, when the number of stamp-issuing countries warranted it. The stamps which appeared in these first collections were quite primitive and amateurish in design, but now command high prices.

The triangular stamps issued by Cape Colony in South Africa were designed so that the illiterate natives there would recognise them as being local. These stamps are highly prized by collectors.

As every collector should know, the most valuable stamp in the world is the unique one cent magenta-coloured issue of British Guiana, printed in 1855 by a local printer when the regular supplies did not arrive.

Although some countries issue stamps for almost any reason at all, just to obtain money from stamp-dealers, it is interesting to note that Great Britain, the first of all stamp issuing countries, has very conservative ideas on the subject, and does not issue commemorative stamps as often as collectors could wish.

3B.

THIS term the form welcomes Dennis, O'Connor, and Wilson, to its midst. A large quantity of work was submitted, and we start with P. H. Darlington's account of

#### THE HOOTON AIR SHOW.

On Saturday, the 19th September, I visited Hooton Park for the air show. They had many types of jets and other planès. The Avro Vulcan was supposed to fly over, but the flight had to be cancelled. The Sabre, however, broke the "sound barrier" with a loud bang. The other jets put up some fine performances, the Vampire did some acrobatics, and the Canberra showed its high speed. There was a jeep covered with sacking shaped like the Vulcan belching out green smoke. However, inside the hangars they had side-shows with parts of jet equipment for pilots and ammunition for planes. Outside on the small runway they had regular flights by Dragon Airways Ltd. To end the day, two squadrons of Meteors flew past, and I am very pleased to hear that the Chester Squadron won the silver cup for the most highly skilled pilots and best squadron for the year.

F. G. Snowden now tells us about

### A FLIGHT IN AN AEROPLANE.

It was about 4 o'clock on the 5th of August when my father and I stepped on the tarmac runway of Speke Airport. In front of us, in an all-yellow finish, stood a "De Havilland 89A Dragon Rapide," serial numbers G—AHPT. The pilot was already in the plane, and as six other passengers, my father, and I stepped aboard, he ushered us to our seats. It was comfortable inside the plane, and the excitement grew inside me as the "Rapide" taxied to the main runway.

Then the airscrews began to spin, and the twin 205 h.p. De Havilland "Gipsy Queen II's" in-line piston-engines spat, the propellers whirled, and, as we shot along the runway, screamed like two banshees. Then the wheels lifted, and *we were airborne.*

The aircraft climbed steadily for hundreds of feet before levelling out and flying along the River Mersey. From this lofty perch I saw Birkenhead Town Hall, with Hamilton Square gardens stretched out in front of it, but, because it was in the middle of the summer holidays, I did not feel like looking for the Birkenhead Institute.

The plane which was one of the De Havilland's last to be produced before the war, banked to about thirty degrees and cut across Liverpool city.

While we were seemingly suspended in the air, I saw the faint ray of truth in a joke which says that even an uncle looks like an ant. When we were flying over Liverpool, I saw the Liver Building and the Mersey Tunnel entrance, with a flood of cars going into it.

Then, all too soon, in fact only fifteen minutes after taking off, Liverpool Airport came into sight; the "Rapide" or "Dominee," as it was known during the war, circled the airfield before touching down with two dull thuds. One of my life's ambitions had been realised.

We conclude with an interesting article of a different character by D. Stubbs about

### THE MAVIS OR SONG THRUSH.

The mavis is an early nester, and the nests can be found round about March. They can easily be found because the birds begin nesting before the leaves come back on the trees and bushes. The nests are made of twigs, moss, and grass, and are lined with mud. Over the mud the bird lays dead grass, fluff or soft roots. The hen lays five to seven eggs, which are greenish blue with orange spots. The thrush has a buff-coloured breast covered with black triangular dots. The mavis eats snails mostly, but will also eat earthworms, slugs, and insects. The mavis, or song thrush, has a rich voice which is easily recognised.

2A begin their contributions with Form Notes by Noel and Quinn:

This year, as a result of the summer examination, we found ourselves mixed up with half of last year's 1B. We have to study one new subject, Latin, and we had to choose between Art and Woodwork. The form has a fine Rugby team which beat Birkenhead School's second form by 13—3. Blackwell and Brocklebank are our outstanding players, both being members of the School Bantam XV.

On the academic side of the form's life, we saw a fine battle for first place between Williams, Blaylock, and Blackwell: Blaylock actually coming top. Quinn is the best all-round sportsman in the form, and Williams the best all-round student. Parker, Merton, and Noel represent the form in this year's Junior Chess Championship. Finally, a number of us have attended the recorder class, started by Mr. Hughes, the new music master.

Then Brocklebank tells us about:

#### MY VISIT TO THE MECCANO WORKS.

A few weeks ago I went with my uncle around the Meccano works. Starting at the place where casts for the cars are made, we then went to where the workers stamp the windows in the cars, and thence to where the wheels are made: these are cut out of a large piece of rubber on which the imprint of the wheel is made.

The cars are painted with a spray gun, and then put on a large tray in an oven to dry. After this, they are transferred to a moving belt; and, as they pass down, the workers on either side of this belt take them off. Next, the radiators of the cars are placed in a hole through a sheet of metal: this is so that the radiators may be sprayed with silver paint. Finally, two people standing at the end of the belt remove the cars, and after making sure that they were in running order, put them away ready for packing.

In conclusion here is Blaylock's contribution, mysteriously entitled:

#### THE GOLDEN HAMSTER.

The Golden Hamster is a very clean and intelligent creature and should, therefore, be cleaned twice a week at least. This creature has recently appeared on Television and is very popular. It is a vegetarian, and eats, among other things, nuts, cheese, mash, cabbage, carrots, and lettuce; it also likes a drink of milk—which, incidentally, must be placed in a heavy vessel. Inside each of its cheeks there is a pouch, into which

it puts its food: then it stores the food away in some corner, to eat when it is hungry. Its cage and sleeping compartment can be made from an oblong wooden box. Since it likes climbing, it is a good idea to put a ladder inside the cage.

2B.

**M**ORGAN begins 2B's contributions this time with  
MY FAVOURITE COMPOSER.

One of my hobbies is music, and my favourite composer is George Frederick Handel, who was born in 1685 and who died in 1759. Although Handel's music is not very popular to-day, there are still many thousands of music-lovers who listen every year to performances of Messiah, the greatest of the many Oratorios which he composed: others include *Israel in Egypt*, *Saul*, and *Judas Maccabeus*. I have a friend whose favourite composer is also Handel, and he often plays me pieces from those Oratorios, e.g. *March in D* from the *Occasional Oratorio*; *March from Judas Maccabeus*; and the *Minuet in E flat* from *Berenice*. My friend also plays me selections from Handel's *Suites*. These *Suites* were written originally for harpsichord, and are rarely if ever heard nowadays. My favourite piece of music comes from Handel's *Seventh Suite*—the famous *Passacaglio in G minor*: it is a set of variations on a given theme, and culminates with tremendous broken chords.

I also like Handel's Organ Concertos, and my friend and I used to go to Liverpool Cathedral last summer holidays, where we heard Mr. Goss Custard—eighty-three years old!—perform on the mammoth Liverpool Cathedral Organ. He played my two favourite Organ Concertos: *in G Minor* and—the best known of all—in *B flat*. Unfortunately, the excessive echo in the Cathedral spoils this type of music, although the effect obtained is very grand.

We continue the form's contributions with an article by C. E. Hughes which he calls

#### A VISIT TO THE MARKET.

I think we, the people of Birkenhead, are very lucky, because we have one of the finest markets in the north of England. Here we see farm produce brought by the farmers from the various parts of Wirral. On busy days we rub shoulders with people of all classes. All seem intent on looking for a bargain, whether it be a brooch or a pair of shoes. We find stall-holders shouting their wares in, for example, Cockney and Lancashire accents, and even in broken English. To listen to all this chatter is sometimes very amusing. Sometimes we meet strangers to the town, and all seem to want to visit the market.

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We conclude with an article by R. Easdown, which he calls  
LUMBERJACKING IN CANADA.

The Canadian back-woods ring, as grizzled lumberjacks hack or hew at giant trees. Saws also cut at these terrific trees. After the branches of the trees have been lopped off, the trunks are cut into smaller portions and sent down the river. The saw-mills receive these logs and make them into different things for different purposes.

Quite frequently the logs jam on their way down the river, and men with spiked shoes have the job of separating them. Sometimes the jam is very severe, and it is the job of other employees to use dynamite to part them.

The lumber-jacks live in bunk-houses, and there is a cook who gets their meals ready every day.

The Canadian forests are among the biggest in the world. When the trees are ready to be cut, a specially picked man goes along painting marks on them.

1A.

FROM the many interesting articles submitted by 1A we begin with Brobyn's, entitled:

#### A NIGHT AT THE DAIRY.

One night when I was on my holidays in Wellfield, Durham, on the invitation of the manager, I went round the Co-operative Dairy. I started on my tour at half-past eight. First of all I was shown where the milk was weighed, after which it is poured into a vat measuring six feet long and four feet wide, and then pumped out at the rate of fifteen thousand gallons an hour. After this, I went upstairs following the pipes, which led to two large pasteurising tanks, each capable of holding three thousand gallons. From here the milk is carried to a machine which first heats it and then cools it to one hundred and sixty degrees, and from there to a large tank which prevents the cream from rising to the top. In the next stage it passes through an instrument which records its temperature, and then, proceeds, via pipes, downstairs where girls are ready to put it into bottles. The bottles are then transferred to a crate, which is carried to waiting lorries: then off it goes to different parts of the country.

Then, Peter Bird describes

#### H.M.S. INDEFATIGABLE.

A few years ago, while on holiday in the Isle of Man, I was fortunate enough to visit the Aircraft-Carrier *H.M.S. Indefatigable*, which was lying at anchor in Douglas Bay. I was taken to the ship by motor-

boat, and boarded it by a gangway. It is the biggest ship I have ever been on, being over a hundred yards long and forty yards wide. On the deck, there is a lift, which forms part of the deck, by which I went down to a lower deck where the hangars are; but there were no planes in the hangars at the time. Then I passed close by the engine-room and saw the pumps which drive the propellers; then I saw the radar room with all its dials and recorders. I also went through the Gymnasium—a vast room containing ropes, wall ladders, swings, vaulting-horses, and punch-balls. Finally, I inspected the mess quarters and dining saloon. Then, after a very enjoyable afternoon, I returned ashore on the motor-boat.

We conclude with Wainwright's essay on

#### MY FAVOURITE FOOTBALL TEAM.

My favourite football team is Liverpool. Although they have never succeeded in winning the F.A. Cup, they have twice appeared in the final. The first time they did so was, incidentally, the first time the King had ever been present at a Cup Final: they were unfortunately beaten by one goal to nil—after extra time—by Burnley. The second occasion on which they appeared was in 1950, when they were beaten by two goals to nil by Arsenal. They have not, however, distinguished themselves in the League during the last couple of seasons: last season, after starting off quite well, they ended up near the bottom of the table. Unless they improve quickly, however, they will not do much better this season.

1B.

**WE** begin 1B's contributions with that of Chesworth entitled:

#### A TRIP ROUND WALES.

Last year, during the summer holidays, my father took my brother and me to Llangollen on his motor bike and side-car. After starting off at about ten o'clock and stopping once at a garage to fill up the petrol tank, we arrived at Llangollen at about half-past eleven. We had our dinner in a cafe overlooking the river, after which we decided to climb to Crow Castle at the top of the mountain. When we reached the Castle, the wind was extremely strong, since we were about one thousand feet up. After this we visited Crucis Abbey, which was unfortunately closed; then we went by the Horseshoe Pass, where it started to rain, to Ruthin, and Mold, where it was raining heavier than ever. Fortunately, it stopped by the time we reached Chester, where, after watching a football match, we cruised on the River Dee for about half-an-hour, and then returned home at about half-past seven: an extremely interesting day out, in spite of the rain.

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We continue with a well-written article by Pierce called:

### BIRKENHEAD SCHOOLBOYS.

Last year, Birkenhead Schoolboys had a most successful season: they won the Cheshire Shield and the Welsh Shield and were also runners-up in the Dimmer Cup.

The match against the Welsh Schoolboys was in two legs: the first leg being played at home, on Tranmere Rovers' football ground; this they won by two goals to nil; and the second leg being played away, at Rhyl, where they won again, this time by one goal to nil. This was the first occasion on which the Welsh Shield had been taken out of Wales.

At the end of the season, Birkenhead Schools' Sports Association held a dinner at the Ritz Cafe in recognition of this record season. Each member of the team was presented with a plaque with his name on.

### *Rugby Club*

#### RESULTS 1953-54 SEASON.

	1st XV.		2nd XV.
Wirral Grammar School .....	A. W...24—11	—	H. W...14—8
Park High School .....	H. W...22—3	—	A. W...20—0
Birkenhead School .....	H. L...6—10	—	A. L...3—18
Wade Deacon Grammar School..	A. D...12—12	—	H. L...0—6
Oldershaw Grammar School ...	H. W...55—0	—	H. W...75—0
Birkenhead Park Schools' XV..	H. D...18—18		
Grove Park School (Wrexham)....			A. W...30—8
St. Anselm's College .....	H. W...38—0	—	A. W...22—3
Grove Park School (Wrexham) .	H. W...11—8	—	H. W...38—8
Rock Ferry High School .....	H. W...9—3	—	A. D...3—3
	Colts (u. 15) XV.		Bantams (u. 14) XV.
Wirral Grammar School .....	A. W...8—6	—	H. L...0—73
Park High School .....	A. L...0—5	—	H. L...0—30
Oldershaw Grammar School ...	H. W...29—12	—	H. W...23—3
Birkenhead School .....	A. W...11—3		
Wade Deacon Grammar School..	A. L...3—25	—	H. L...0—62
St. Anselm's Collège .....	H. W...37—9	—	A. L...0—35
Grove Park School (Wrexham)..	A. W...6—3		

The 1st XV. has enjoyed a very successful term owing to an excellent back division of which no person can be singled out for special mention. Every member has played his part magnificently, and collectively they are the best in the district. There is plenty of room for improvement in the pack, however: better results could be obtained if

one and all learned to bind tightly and to shove more intelligently in the loose scrums. K. W. Jones, Lindop, Haggerty, and Hodgson, are the best, but recently Robb has improved tremendously, and has now developed into an excellent front-row forward.

After several changes to find the best combination, the team has quite settled down, and has been beaten only once, Birkenhead School winning by 10 points to 6. The first choice, not taking injuries into account, is:—Wilkinson; N. N. Jones, Mathieson, T. R. Jones, Lloyd; Roberts, Marrs; Burnell, K. W. Jones, Robb, Haggerty, Lindop, Dodd, Marston, Hodgson. Smith has ably filled Lloyd's position while he is out injured with a broken finger. It is to be hoped that the standard of play will be maintained and even bettered once the pack really plays as a pack.

The 2nd XV. has also had an unusually successful season, owing, as I have stated before, to the keenness of the fifth forms. Harris has proved himself to be a very able captain, and I am glad that the rest of the team has given him such good support. The pack, although lethargic at times, is a great improvement on recent years and gives a plentiful supply of the ball to the backs, of whom H. S. Jones, Harris, Hewitt, and Smith excel. H. S. Jones, although originally a scrum-half, is developing into a very versatile player, and the quality of his play at fly-half is improving with each game. In the solid-looking pack, Dennis, Phipps, and Christian, can be singled out for the good quality of their play.

The Bantams have had a very poor season up to now. This may be due to being beaten by a large score, and incidentally a very much larger team, in their first match, and the resulting lack of confidence. It is also due to lack of speed, however, and really bad tackling, and, as soon as this fault has been remedied, I hope that this team will regain its winning ways. By doing so it will be upholding the good name of the School.

Thanks are due, I am certain, to Mrs. Wilkinson and the Ladies' Committee for providing such delightful refreshments after each match. Thank you very much indeed, Mrs. Wilkinson! I'm sure everyone will join me in wishing Mr. Davies good luck in his new post. We should also like to extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Robins who is coming next term to take Mr. Davies's place as Master in charge of Physical Training.

A.H.



## COLTS.

The team has started the season quite well by winning five matches and losing two. The opening game against Wirral was rather a scrappy affair, neither side settling down. The Colts were not playing together as a team, and the loose scrummaging in particular was poor. In the next game, which was against Park High School, the forwards played together better, but the handling of the backs was often at fault. There were several occasions when the team was on the Park line, but failure to heel the ball and pass it out quickly meant that much hard work went to waste. It was in this game that a new full-back was discovered. Meredith, playing in this position for the first time, did very well, and has since continued to improve, showing promise for the future.

In the Birkenhead School game the team took on a new lease of life, the forwards playing extremely well, Gerven in particular, using his weight to good advantage. It was in this match that A. Jones, using his head as well as his hands and feet, scored a brilliant individual try.

Against Wade Deacon the Colts had a poor day, playing too often against each other and not against the other side. As a result the better team on the day won comfortably.

Against Oldershaw, however, the Colts were so determined to do well that four tries were scored in the first ten minutes. After playing so well in the first half, they slackened off in the second, and Oldershaw were certainly the better side for a time. The goal-kicking in this match was poor.

The score against Wrexham should have been much greater, but, once more, the inability to heel the ball on the opponents' line cost many tries. Hopner gave an object lesson in tackling, and A. Jones again scored one of his individual tries.

Against St. Anselm's College the Colts played really well as a team, Walsh, using his weight and speed, scored four tries, and Fitzgerald and A. Jones kicked extremely well. The forwards worked hard together, Caldwell, playing in only his first game because of illness, setting a good example both in tackling and in line-out work.

Throughout the season Gallard, Fitzgerald, Evans, Lutner, S. M. Lloyd, and Billing, have played well in the forwards, while Sherry's hooking has been very good.

Porter and Cundill in the backs have speed, but they must learn to run straight. Clampitt has turned himself into quite a reasonable scrum half.

The best player throughout, however, has been A. Jones, who has captained the side well. He always plays very hard and sets a good example, and in this he has proved himself a worthy successor to the Jones twins of last year. L.T.M.

### BANTAMS.

The Bantams XV. has so far had a very poor season, having suffered heavy defeats in 4 of their 5 matches played. The reason for this is partly the abolition this year of height and weight restrictions, which has severely handicapped the team, this year below average in size, in comparison with larger schools. Their failure, however, is also in a large measure to be attributed to glaring weaknesses in play, inability to profit by mistakes and, in the early matches especially, a lamentable lack of fighting spirit. The most conspicuous weakness has perhaps been in tackling, which has too often taken the form of a mere despairing gesture.

An unfortunate misunderstanding about the height and weight restrictions resulted in our fielding a weaker team than was necessary in the opening match against Wirral G.S., and the heavy defeat which ensued seems to have demoralised the team at the outset. However, it must be said that despite the large adverse score, a better attitude and improved play seen in the last match played, against St. Anselm's College, who had a much stronger and faster team. The team's one success so far, against Oldershaw G.S. by 23—2, was sufficiently convincing to show that the side has possibilities, if it will only give itself the chance of developing them, but it must cultivate the habit of fighting back, even against the strongest opposition, and of being satisfied with nothing less than an all-out effort from the first whistle to the last.

## Chess Club

IT was with regret that we said goodbye to two players who have been stalwarts of the Chess Club for the last four or five years, and we wish E. Taylor and C. W. Weir, last year's captain and secretary, every success in their university studies. Dodd, last year's champion for the second time, is the captain of the present team, and Bryant secretary.

In order to encourage as many boys as possible to play Chess, sessions are held regularly every lunch hour in 5B Form Room, as well as on the official evenings, Monday and Friday. As a result, there are

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In order to encourage as many boys as possible to play Chess, sessions are held regularly every lunch hour in 5B Form Room, as well as on the official evenings, Monday and Friday. As a result there are

about forty members. From this it would seem a simple matter to pick seven good players especially as four of last year's regular members are still with us. But the team's performances to date have fallen short of our expectations, several of our players not having found their best form.

The School team has been represented regularly by Dodd, Bryant, Marrs, Taylor F., Riley, and Morgan; whilst Green and P. Jones have also played. Dodd has set a fine example as captain, and played extremely well on top board, winning three out of his four games. The real weakness of the team lies with the middle and lower boards who have displayed somewhat inconsistent form: the only answer to this is serious practice. Two league championships have been set on foot: one junior and one senior; and there is every prospect of the games being completed.

Finally, I should like to praise the enthusiasm of the first forms, who between them supply no fewer than fifteen active members: a very bright future may confidently be forecast. W.N.B.

## Scout Notes

**D**URING the summer holidays the troop held its annual camp at Maughold, in the Isle of Man, and rarely has it spent so sunny a fortnight under canvas. Many visits were paid to Ramsey and Douglas, a coach trip round the island was arranged, there was bathing in the sea and the nearby stream: in fact there was scarcely a dull moment in the whole fortnight.

Now, with the beginning of the new School year, the troop has welcomed several new recruits from the first forms to replace those who have passed on to the senior troop, and has settled down once more to its routine activities.

The annual parents' evening was held, very successfully, on Friday, 13th November, and on the following Saturday there was a bring and buy sale in aid of funds for the building of new troop headquarters, which Mrs. A. O. Jones graciously consented to open.

Some members of the troop visited the Scout Gang Show at Crewè, which commemorated the 21st birthday of the Gang Show, spending a very enjoyable evening there and picking up some useful "gen" for the next Troop Gang Show.

With the approach of Christmas and all that goes with Christmas, the troop is nearing the end of a very successful year of scouting. Keep it up, lads!

SCOUTER.

## *Literary and Debating Society*

THE first meeting of the Society was held to elect the officers for the 1953-54 season. Mr. Hodger was elected Secretary, and Messrs. Green, Hodgson, Phipps, H. S. Jones, and Robb, were elected to the Committee. At the next meeting, at which 29 members were present, there were a number of general discussions; the topics included motor-cycling, golf, boxing and the wearing of sports colours on the School blazer. The third meeting was a debate, the motion being that "This House considers that the B.B.C. should be allowed to have the monopoly of British Broadcasting." It was proposed by Mr. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Heath, and opposed by Mr. Robb, seconded by Mr. Phipps. The motion was defeated by 1 vote. The next motion, that "In the opinion of the House Modern Popular Music is to be preferred to Classical Music," was carried by 26 votes to 14, 13 members abstaining. It was proposed by Mr. Hodgson, seconded by Mr. T. R. Jones, and opposed by Mr. Williamson, seconded by Mr. H. S. Jones. The last meeting held consisted of a number of impromptu debates.

P.G.P.

## *University Letters*

THE UNION,

BIRMINGHAM, 15.

*The Editor.*

I believe it is quite an occasion when the Visor receives a University Letter from this part of the world. If my memory is correct, the last one was published three years ago. I beg that this state of affairs should cease—it is not fit that Instonians should waste their valuable time at inferior Universities. I suggest that "the banner be unfurled," etc., etc., and the cry "I wanna go to Brum" be heard to ring back at the buildings.

I should like to make it clear here and now that I do not mean to stress the academic advantages that Birmingham University has over all other English Universities. There is absolutely no need.

The hard-working student deserves now and again a break from his studies. One of these such breaks takes the form of a Rag Day. Here at Birmingham we do not let the excitement get out of hand. We keep well clear of the police, or perhaps it would be more correct to say the police keep well clear of us; for a few years ago several policemen, including the chief constable, were severely drenched by two students experimenting with a stirrup pump.

There are excellent recreational and social facilities (not to mention eating facilities—no more school dinners!) here at the Union. The clubs



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and societies which one can join range from the Athletic Union to the IIM Club (the latter exclusive to those who have failed 2nd Year Maths). By the way, membership of the Athletic Union is automatic on entering the University, and all one has to do is register with the club or clubs one wishes to join. Other clubs request a small membership fee, probably the cause of a shortage of members in some cases.

I should like to conclude by reminding present Instonians that, although there is no place like home, there is also no place like Brum.

I remain,

Yours, etc.,

T. S. HODGSON.

TRINITY COLLEGE,

CAMBRIDGE.

18th November, 1953.

Dear Sir,

Since I have only a faint recollection of what previous contributors to that most illustrious magazine, the *Visor*, wrote about, I am at a loss what to say. Am I to describe a rather uninspiring town, or am I to describe the life of an undergraduate here? As the latter consists mainly of a daily round of "wine, women, and song," it will surely be censored as unfit for printing. I am sure I should be the last one to contaminate the minds of the earnest youths who attend the Institute.

I must however disillusion young aspirants as to the possibility of finding rich and beautiful heiresses at Girton or Newnham. This is a mistaken impression under which many people labour.

One system that is in force up here will, I am sure, find many supporters. The system is that we only have one examination per year. Of course, this has the disadvantage that only one week's work is done in a year instead of the normal three weeks. On consideration, however, the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.

I believe Cambridge was in the public eye for a brief period last month, when a debate in which Gilbert Harding figured none too prominently was broadcast. After this, the idea of a "live" transmission was given up, as the amount of material expurgated was so great.

The Master of Trinity, Professor Adrian, threw a party about a fortnight ago. The expression is rather strong, as the Scholars were "invited to take wine with the Master." This is apparently the only time in three years when one sees him, so it is deemed a "special occasion." He gave a rather entertaining monologue on the architectural monstrosities that go to make up Trinity.



As my not so literary spell has come to an abrupt end, I must say adieu.

Yours, etc.,

L. MITCHELL.

STUDENTS' UNION,

LIVERPOOL.

Dear Sir,

After having spent seven years at the Institute, leaving it was bound to produce regret. Nor was going up to the University exchanging a Troilus for a Cressida. The Freshers' Conference usually gives a false impression of life in the University, but when it is finished a rude awakening awaits the student, and the almost forgotten word "work" is spoken of once more. The lecture system is, of course, the main difference between the University and School. Although not absolutely aloof, a lecturer has no really personal interest in his students as a master has in school, but, as the classes are so much bigger, this can hardly be expected of him. However, the difference to me personally is that I have to study the intricacies of Anglo-Saxon sound-changes, to write French literature essays in French, and to keep ahead of the lecturer in Modern History, who blithely announced that, as he goes so far back before our period starts, he never reaches the end of it.

Another difference, of course, is the wide opportunities of recreation. If a student enjoys being bruised, he can join the Rugby Club, or, if he feels in suicidal mood, he can become a member of the Rifle Club, while for those with political or religious interests there are the appropriate societies. Being a lover of championing lost causes, I joined the Liberal Society, which meets once a week in a telephone kiosk and goes home by tandem. By inviting other Liberal societies to a joint meeting, we hope to be able to hire two telephone kiosks and to go home by tandem and sidecar. One society every student in the Faculty of Arts is compelled to join is the Arts Students' Association, which received my fifteen shillings with evident pleasure which one must also be a member of the Guild of Undergraduates. It was disconcerting to receive a final demand note for the Guild fee of five guineas several weeks after starting at the University, whilst still waiting for an education grant.

However, with the Christmas examinations only a few weeks away, I must finish my letter and return to my work and opium.

Yours sincerely,

KENNETH PARRY.

## Old Instonians Rugby Union Football Club

*President:* A. O. JONES, Esq., M.Sc.

*Chairman:* E. G. WEBB, Esq. *Vice-Chairman:* E. G. WILLIAMS, Esq.

*Hon. Secretary:* K. I. SMITH, Esq. *Hon. Treasurer:* T. P. BOLAM, Esq.

*Hon. Social Secretary:* N. G. LITTLE, Esq.

THE activities of the Old Instonians follow much the same pattern each year, but this season there seems to have been a significant variation. Realising that competition among clubs in the junior division of Merseyside Rugby has become fiercer of late, the Old Instonians have made a determined effort to maintain their position. They have done this by trying to inculcate a club spirit among members, by tightening the liaison with the School and by opening a Ground Fund: three aims designed to look after the future of the club. The facilities at the Pavilion have been improved, a Ladies' Committee has been formed; a more vigorous training Programme was successfully carried through.

In all this the Committee has set an example of initiative and service which has borne fruit in the overall improvement in the playing record of all three teams. To date, the 1st XV. has won 4 games and lost 6 (Points for, 100; points against, 86); the 2nd XV. has lost only one game; the 3rd XV. won 5 games, lost 4. This record is an improvement on the previous season's, and augurs well for the future.

It has been a great encouragement to find boys from the School supporting the club, both at the field and at our social events.

A Christmas Dance will be held at the Kingsland Dance Hall, December 18th; and on January 2nd, 1954, the Ladies' Committee will held a New Year's Social at the Prenton Bowling Club. Old Boys and schoolboys are cordially invited to support these functions.

K. I. SMITH.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Old Boys' Notes and News

The Old Boys' War Memorial Prize for the year 1952-53 has been awarded by the Trustees to T. S. Hodgson.

The *Visor* reports with regret the death of Mrs. Donald Rigby, who was Chairman of the Ladies' Committee of the Old Instonians Rugby Club. We offer our sincerest sympathy to Mr. Rigby, a prominent member of the Old Boys' Association.

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