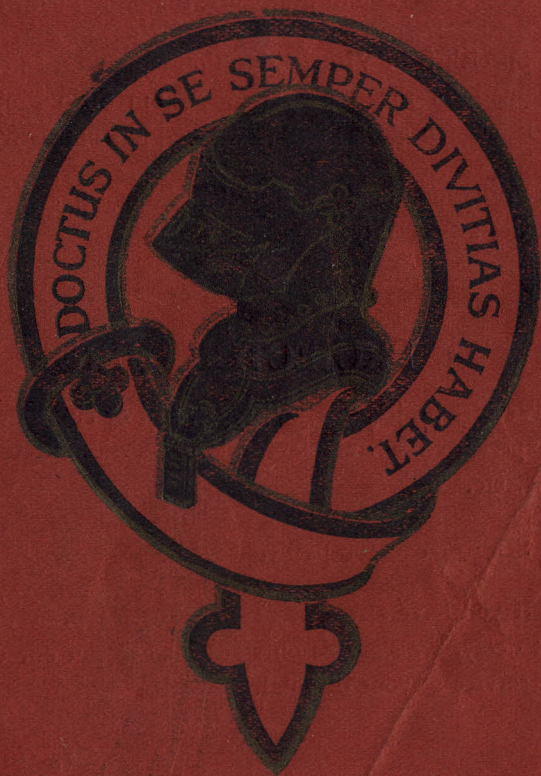


THE VISOR



MAGAZINE OF
BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE

EASTER 1953.

MERSEYSIDE'S FOREMOST PHOTOGRAPHIC SPECIALISTS

Comprehensive selection of guaranteed new and second-hand equipment.

Cine cameras and projectors, sound or silent.

Specialists in Visual Education apparatus, interested parties should send for the free booklet, "Film Strip Projectors—their use in Education and industry," available from us free of charge.

Professional and Commercial Photographers, School Teams and parties a Speciality.

PROJECTOR HIRE

We hire projectors of all types, still or ciné, silent or sound, with experienced operators. Ideal for Parties, Lectures, Demonstrations, etc.

Send or call for particulars.

If you have any type of photographic problem, consult us without delay, we shall be only too glad to put our very comprehensive service at your disposal.



MONTAGUE FISHER Ltd

185 GRANGE ROAD, BIRKENHEAD. TELEPHONE 3311

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."



ALL
REGULATION
SCHOOL CLOTHING
REQUIREMENTS ...

BLAZERS, CAPS, TIES, SCARVES
STOCKINGS and PULLOVERS

in School Colours,
and ATHLETIC CLOTHING
of all descriptions.

Bibby and Perkin
LTD

243/7 GRANGE ROAD, Birkenhead
Telephone BIR. 2263

And at 176, Bedford Road, ROCK FERRY.

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

Just Telephone

Charles Stephens

(BIRKENHEAD) LIMITED

The Funeral Directors of
Birkenhead and Bebington

Telephone 353 Birkenhead

CREMATIONS
ARRANGED

Chapel of Rest

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

1st XV, 1952-53



R.Turner, J.Fisk, T.A.Dodd, G.A.Haggerty, M.Marston, T.Doveston, G.Sherlock, N.Wilkinson, I.Marrs, K.Jones,
D.Mathieson, N.N.Jones, C.W.Weir, T.S. Hodgson, H.Smith, H.Hodgson, D.Barwell.

Photo by Cull.

Telephone :

BIRKENHEAD 3690

Established:

1894

CHARLES DASHLEY

Proprietor W. J. DASHLEY

35 & 37, Oxton Road, Birkenhead

COOKED MEATS : SAUSAGES
: PIES OF FINEST QUALITY :

*All Products
Processed*

under

*most Hygienic
Conditions :*

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

Telephone :

Birkenhead 1261.

122, OXTON ROAD,
BIRKENHEAD.

ALEC GREEN

for

SUN Cycles

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."



School Calendar

Spring Term begins	January 5th.
Cross Country Run	February 13th.
Half Term	February 14th—17th inclusive.
Speech Day	March 24th.
Spring Term ends	April 1st.
Summer Term begins	April 20th.
Half Term	May 23rd—26th inclusive.
Coronation Holiday	June 2nd, 3rd and 4th.
Summer Term ends	July 24th.
Autumn Term begins	September 7th.

Editorial

SOME of our patrons have been known to ask 'Why does every *Visor* begin with an editorial?' To which we would be entitled to reply (but forbear) 'Why not indeed?' Being in genial mood however and assuming this to be a genuine and not merely censorious enquiry, and convinced that our readers, like Miss Dartle in *Copperfield*, are only seeking information, we are prepared to enlighten them. For a brief space then we lift the green shade from our eyes, lay down our stupendous blue pencil, majestically turn about in our swivel chair (if the three-legged wreck on which we are customarily perched may be so poetically described), portentously remove our spectacles and are quite at the disposal of any bona-fide deputation. An editorial Kick-off to each issue is necessary, firstly, because it is traditional: You can no more begin a school magazine without one than you can launch a ship without champagne or an opera without an overture. On this score then, fortified by the most venerable precedents, we offer no apology.

Secondly, you must have an editorial because you always have an editor, a figure of some consequence even if like the present one he has (as they say in the army) only honorary, local, and acting rank. What

does he do? Rather ask what does he *not* do? He runs the magazine. He collects material from contributors, or (if after the most strenuous cajolery it is not forthcoming) he writes the stuff himself. He prepares manuscripts for the printer, and is by this time as finished an expert in deciphering illegibility as any half dozen egyptologists you could mention at random. He gathers advertisements to stave off bankruptcy, and watches his copy with an eagle eye lest it should clash in sentiment with the wares of the merchants who rent his pages; for it would never do (say), if an article on the opium menace stood cheek by jowl with the proclaimed attractions of some oriental smoking-den. The editor reads proofs, studies the market price of paper, pursues photographers, makes estimates, communicates with distant universities and other troubled zones, courts the printer and, not least, counts the pence of those trusting souls who invest prospectively in the products of his labours. He has to be versed, too, in the law of criminal libel. That irate house captain (with the horse whip) and that disgruntled form poet, even now waiting in our ante-room gentlemen, will, after we have bowed out your esteemed persons enter to offer us personal violence or to salvage rejected sagas. Surmounting such perils, your humble servant might well sing like the orderly 'O who would be an editor on publication day?' For this is a climax. As the magazine comes from the press, he becomes a counter, a checker, a distributor, a packer. A brief moment of glory or of obloquy and the whole process begins afresh. The stone rolls to the bottom, and Sisyphus starts to push the thing uphill again. Another issue is on the way.

All this and an editorial too? You may well ask. And why should not the man who has performed these miracles and given you a new *Visor*, lift up his voice for a brief space? Let the hen proclaim her strident triumph at each new egg, let the band leader snatch a trumpet and blow a fanfare in praise of his own prowess, let the producer come before the curtains to give the groundlings a foretaste of the glory that shall be hereafter. Let the editor no less, who has watched this *Visor* from its cradle, mount his rostrum and proffer his latest creature to the expectant multitudes. As the serial story synopses say, now read on.

Salvete

SPRING TERM.

1A. Murtagh, G. M.

Valete

AUTUMN TERM.

5B. Whatling, K. J.; 4B. Goldie, A. J.

SPRING TERM.

5B. Sherlock, G. D.; 1B. Evans, O. W.

Obituary

MANY Old Instonians will have heard with regret of the death of Mr. W. G. Lewis, who was Handicraft Master at the Institute from 1908 to 1933. A man of forthright opinions expressed without fear or favour, Mr. Lewis was at the same time a genial colleague and a most stimulating teacher, who possessed a wide and often surprising range of knowledge in many fields. Those who had the privilege of being taught by him in the Woodwork Shop will not readily forget his burly figure and rubicund countenance, nor the incisive manner in which he could administer a rebuke without impairing the essential friendliness of his manner. His death snaps one more link with former times at the School, but those masters who served with him and those Old Boys who worked under him will retain a lively and affectionate recollection of a genuine character.

Know How

LDLY turning over the pages of a magazine published in another continent, I came across an advertisement issued by the Associated Power Company (that is not its real name, but we must keep out of the police courts). The page was divided into some four dozen squares each with a striking headline above smaller print. Thinking that power meant something electrical, I scanned these notices more carefully, only to find that I was on the wrong tack.

Together they made up a system to turn A. P. C. patrons into titans and world-beaters. Fifty courses were offered at varying prices and in "informative folios" to "improve your skill, health, knowledge, personality, accomplishments, worldliness, alertness and appearance, each resigned and compiled by an expert in his particular field. Post your money for the Know How Now." You must try to picture fifty philanthropic tutors inhabiting a city building, intent upon helping mankind and transmitting such currents of power as would blow the roof off any ordinary structure. Each of them, a more than admirable Crichton, could apparently turn himself into a millionaire overnight, but he prefers to devote his talents to the service of suffering humanity. I have tried to imagine what the general manager of this crew must be like; a cross between Pierpont Morgan and Carnera is about the best I have been able to do up to now.

The first thing that intrigued me about these courses is the scale of fees or tariffs. For instance "Dance the Square" at 2 shillings is rated at eight times the value of Hindu Yoga ("develop enormous physical and mental self-control and stamina") peddled at a paltry two and sixpence. I

should have thought the value all wrong here; that one should merely invest one's half dollar in the Yoga stuff, pass through the walls of the dance hall and arriving on the square, take in all the steps in one masterly Hindu glance and so save seventeen and six. Again "Learn to wrestle" is listed at as much as thirty shillings and yet for the ridiculous sum of six and six (in "Dinki-Di-Knockouts") you can learn "twelve ever ready blows in a day; keep them up your sleeve for Mr. Thug, who won't (to quote the prospectus) know what struck him after you leave him cold." There must be some subtle reasons behind these discrepant fees which baffle a non-graduate in A. P. C.

But any suspicions you may harbour about this academy are banished in the fascinating contemplation of the things you can do for yourself. On the brute strength side you can be "automatic in self-defence (at eight and six) by recapturing natural action from humanity's jungle days." This course is guaranteed to let you in on "crashing, bone bending, nerve-shattering secrets" and will probably make you such a menace to the community that 'Mr. Thug' (the favourite stock character of the catalogue) will gradually become romanticised into a weak and amiable figure in comparison. ("Remember the Thugs, Mabel? Nice quiet gentlemanly types. Not many about nowadays since the boys learnt the 50 Master Methods of Pulping the Bully.") You can "grow taller, stronger, be broad (for two and ninepence), the specimen men envy," as the advertisement feelingly observes with some recollection of the underground railway in the rush hour. You can "be a Husky He Man and know the joy of powerful, rippling, whipcord, manly muscles, and develop enormous strength, tireless energy, feel good, and look good." For still a few more modest shillings, you can have a husky (A.P.C. knows that this is what we all want) manly chest and, what is more, "Fill Your Clothes" and so cease to look as though your suit is made out of sacks. Do you wish to be popular at football matches and in the cinema? "Take the Height Increasing Course. Grow a towering, husky (there we are again!) body and look over the heads of crowds." For three and three you can do much the same and improve the English language into the bargain by "firming the flesh and youthifying the motions."

Yet let us be fair to the college. They realise that life is not all massacre; it has its higher moments. One may be charming as well as husky. "Be good to look at!" they beg. "Eliminate lines and wrinkles. Make your eyes clear and sparkling. Be alluring—only five and sixpence. Be liked and loved. Have magnetic, likeable ways. Be proud to be seen on the beach." Carefully invested, your money is bound to do the trick; for should charm fail you can always fall back on one of the anti-thug mule kicks. Nor do the professors ignore the fact that you have a mind. They have a cheap, popular line at four and six exactly suited to the needs of examination candidates, offering "extra brain

ORVILLE JONES, M.P.S:

Dispensing Chemist,

**10 & 12 MALLABY STREET,
BIRKENHEAD.**

**THREE QUALIFIED CHEMISTS
IN ATTENDANCE.**

DAY AND NIGHT

DISPENSING SERVICE.

ESTABLISHED 1919

**THE SPORTS SHOP
CHARING CROSS**

**The Goods
for
Every Game**

**SOLE PROPRIETORS OF THE "WIZARD" and "SPEDEX"
BRANDS OF SPORTS GOODS**

**ROBERTS & JOBSON
LIMITED**

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

Telephones:—

BIRKENHEAD 192

BROMBOROUGH 2171

: MONUMENTAL SCULPTOR :

ALEX. C. SMITH,

Funeral furnisher

*Member of British Institute of Embalmers on
Staff*

: ROLLS ROYCE EQUIPMENT :

ROMAN CATHOLIC & CHURCH
: OF ENGLAND CHAPELS OF :
REPOSE

Head Office:

202 Conway St., BIRKENHEAD

Branch Office:

2 High Street BROMBOROUGH

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

power, concentration and rapid thought" or perhaps even more useful (and only two bob more) "Build nerves of steel, be calm, cool, collected, and master of every situation." Prefects might well follow the "Talk extra well" course. "Express your ideas with vibrant, living words. Don't take orders; give them." A handy subsidiary certificate urges "Wake up to People! Learn how they think by watching their faces"—an indispensable qualification for schoolmasters, referees, and welshing bookmakers. I notice that in the "Commanding Voice" syllabus the word husky is dropped for once, and I am puzzled by the announcement that Yoga Brèath Control is "designed for lung users," as though they were some kind of secret society. But it is ungenerous to carp. You should now know enough about the idea to perceive that only a small outlay stands between you and cyclopean strength wedded to irresistible personal charm.

This bunch of Tarzan producers does not however stop there. It offers some jolly sidelines which I presume you take up after being converted into a Hercules. "Grow dwarf trees only a few inches high with miniature blossom and fruit. A big spare time money maker" and, one might add, a delightful hobby for the towering giants of the he-man courses. "Make life masks. More personal than a photograph. Make one of each of your family" who will of course be delighted to lie on the kitchen floor while you smother them with putty, so much simpler than that clumsy camera business. "Build ships in bottles." It is a lovely picture of the bull like monsters of the brawn department messing about at this particular pastime, though I scarcely fancy the idea of a bottle (even with a ship in it) in *their* hands. "Make sweets, lollies, and choes." With somewhat exaggerated confidence in commercial friendliness you are told that "your local confectioner will gladly buy your surplus"—but heaven help you if, feeling his business beginning to droop, he studies for one of the bashing diplomas. Or you can have "Ventriloquist Fun, create the illusion that someone else is speaking, laughing, etc., and that strange sounds come from the oddest places." (I positively believe that I must have encountered on occasion some of A.P.C.'s aptest pupils). Finally, you can "Be an Artist for nine and six in twelve lessons;" (it cost Augustus John a lot more and took him a lot longer, but then he lived before the dawn of KNOW HOW), or better still, sample the college masterpiece "Learn to swim at home. No water necessary."

Now one thing continues to exercise me about this racket (if I may be allowed so to describe it). What happens when a number of advanced-level graduates of this university of beef and beauty meet on common ground? Would not the result be an explosion of the first magnitude? Imagine the scene. Four of these supermen have come

together for a happy social evening, all having taken the specialist course "Play Poker to Win." But one honourman has also passed through the "Super Memory-Power" mill, and of course he knows where all the cards are and rapidly skins his companions. While he is smirking from a "Be Good to Look At" face, he discovers that the man opposite (holding a certificate with six credits in the "Possess Dominating Eyes" branch) has fixed him with a cobra-like glare. Worse still, since our hero has walked through the Mental Telepathy ticket at three and sixpence ("guaranteeing the power to receive unspoken thoughts"), he becomes uncomfortably aware that the sentiments of the company concerning himself have reached flash point. A professor of the Commanding Voice (four and threepence, twelve lessons) begs leave to inquire, like a thunderclap, what the devil he thinks he is playing at. It is too much. Recalling what his text-book on "Deadly G-man Judo" recommends for such crises, our genius rises like Samson at Gaza, seizes one man by the neck and whirls him deftly round. Having got him spinning nicely and using him as a club, he demolishes the remaining pair as well as the adjacent furniture. Then, flushed with triumph, he salutes the passing of his three adversaries by vaulting lightly to the piano stool and playing a funeral march—an easy accomplishment to a master of "Hot Piano" (by our illustrated 50-day wonder method at half a guinea).

G. GENTLE
High Class Grocer
and
Provision Merchant
33 WHETSTONE LANE, BIRKENHEAD

PERSONAL ATTENTION TO ALL ORDERS.

NEW REGISTERED CUSTOMERS WELCOMED.

ONLY HIGH-GRADE GOODS STOCKED.



It is an old saying that a cat may look at a King but how many cats are privileged to inspect *us*? One day in February we welcomed Sparkie, who posed in the Art Room while several forms attempted to draw him. He sat throughout an entire afternoon, maintaining a philosophic calm and a superb self-control which are, one fears, unusual qualities in school. We congratulate Newton of 2B on the possession of so intelligent a pet. Later in the term, Brocklebank of 1A also brought along his handsome spaniel as a model. We look forward in the future to attempts to draw camels, pythons, leopards, pumas, and other domestic animals.

* * * * *

The appearance of some new bus route numerals—hitherto unused—has intrigued our many transport experts. Special buses now convey pupils from the Woodchurch area into the town, but our members only enjoyed this aspect of the welfare state for a few weeks, since the available seats are now required for younger children. This is a blessing in disguise; for it means that the complaint voiced in some quarters, that these buses get pupils to school too early(!), does not trouble us.

* * * * *

The Senior Debating Society continues faithfully to borrow (and to improve upon) the ideas of Lime Grove and Alexandra Palace. Its latest "What's my line?" venture offers interesting possibilities, though we have not yet discovered a budding Instonian Harding. We anticipate other features like "Current Release" outside the Detention Room at 5 p.m.; "The Man in the Kitchen" making rainbow sponge; and evil-doers from various forms appearing "without script or rehearsal" "in the News."

* * * * *

This has been a term of extreme varieties of weather. We have had stunning gales, during which our building strained and creaked like a ship going round the Horn, blizzards, all-pervading fog, and very low temperatures. A verba! spell *after* half term enabled us to forget the trying days of January. The belief, held by some, that the door of one form room was blown off in a hurricane, is an exaggeration.

The Annual Cross Country Runs

FRIDAY, February 13th, was the not particularly auspicious-sounding day chosen for the popular cross country event. After a succession of wet and unpleasant days we were favoured with a bright and sunny day. The wind was cool but not too strong. There was the usual excellent turn-out of competitors. In passing we may perhaps allude to the strange ideas of one or two members of the first form on what constitutes running kit—ideas which were corrected by the official starter. Before the start photographs were taken.

When the first-comers arrived, it was plain that the going had been heavy, and many confirmed that the mud on the senior course had given them feet of lead. As far as Storeton, of course, conditions were good; and even across the fields to the railway the ground was not too bad, slippery but not muddy. The return, however, up Landican Lane, a sea of mud from side to side, was extremely heavy going. Two years ago the competitors had to splash through floods, but this time they had to plough through deep and tenacious mud, so that, as several runners confirmed, it was a relief to get back once more to the Lever Causeway and a firmer surface.

Congratulations to all who ran.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNS.

JUNIOR (93 ran).

1. Lee (2A)	1. Tate	53 points.
2. Humphreys (2B)	2. Atkin	48 points.
3. Jones, T. (1A)	3. Westminster	47 points.
	4. Stitt	34 points.

Time: 16 minutes 20 seconds.

INTERMEDIATE (74 ran).

1. Walsh (3A)	1. Atkin	44 points.
2. Smith, J. G. (4B)	2. Stitt	29 points.
3. Cundill (3B)	3. Westminster	28 points.
	4. Tate	25 points.

Time: 25 minutes 48.4 seconds.

Walsh won the race last year with a time of 27 minutes 27.8 seconds.

SENIOR (68 ran).

1. Dodd, T. A. (6S)	1. Stitt	29 points.
2. Williamson (6A)	2. Westminster	24 points.
3. Harris (5A)	3. Atkin	18 points.
	4. Tate	13 points.

Time: 34 minutes 41.2 seconds.

Dodd won the race last year with a time of 35 minutes 1.2 seconds.

Williamson was second last year.

The Grocer

The finest judges

All agree

Nixon's excel

In grocery.

50-52 MARKET STREET
NIXON
BIRKENHEAD

The wisest wife
Is sure to fix on
The high-class goods
Purveyed by NIXON.

PHONE BIRKENHEAD 6212
AND SAVE TIME

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

ROGERS BROS.

for

Cycles : Auto-Cycles : Mini-Motors

Cycle-Masters : Cairns Mocyc.

RADIO : TELEVISION

Prams : Go-Chairs : Toys

etc., etc.

Note Addresses . . .

73/7 Exmouth Street . 49 Market Street,
1 Sussex Street . 67 New Chester Road,
New Ferry.

Phones : Birkenhead 3400, Ext. 123.





Rock Ferry 1730.

**DON'T DELAY : CALL TO-DAY
LARGEST STOCK IN THE NORTH.**

HOUSE POSITIONS.

(i.) Atkin, 110 points; (ii.) Westminster, 99 points; (iii.) Stitt 92 points; (iv.) Tate, 91 points.

Atkin has now won the race for six consecutive years, every year it has been run since the war.

ATKIN	STITT	TATE	W'MINSTER
			
HOUSE NOTES			

ATKIN.

THE House has gained a slender lead in the Coronation Cup competition at the moment of writing these notes, but it will require the support of every member of the House if this lead is to be retained.

The senior rugby team won its matches against Stitt and Westminster last term; in the junior matches played this term Atkin defeated Stitt and Westminster by 36 points to 14 points and 56 points to nil respectively. Hopner, the captain, and Lee are the team's outstanding backs, while Evans, Cal'dwell, Lutner, and Sherry have put in excellent work in the forwards.

Atkin won the cross-country runs for the sixth successive year. In the junior race, Atkin's team gained second place, Lee's winning time being 16 minutes and 20 seconds. The intermediate team came in first, a magnificent performance, on which those taking part are to be congratulated. Dodd won the senior race in 34 minutes and 31.2 seconds, improving on his run last year.

In table tennis, Atkin gained second place, losing narrowly to Tate by 3 games to 2, and defeating Stitt and Westminster by 5 games to nil and 3 games to 2 respectively. A. G. Roberts was undefeated in the singles matches.

The House gained second place in the chess competition, defeating Tate and Westminster by 4 games to 3 and 5 games to 2 respectively, but losing to Stitt by 2½ games to 4½.

T.S.T.

STITT.

MIXED fortunes have attended Stitt's efforts this term. In the House rugby the Junior team lost to Tate and Atkin, and Stitt seniors, after being beaten by Tate, lost to Atkin.

The table tennis team lost all three House matches.

In the Cross-Country Stitt finished 3rd. Despite fine efforts by Humphreys, Rimmer, McIntosh, Stubbs, and Sweeney; in the Junior race, Stitt were last. T. J. Walsh won the Intermediate race for the second year in succession, and Stitt were 2nd. Excellent packing in the Senior race brought its dividends, Stitt winning this event. Britton, Heath, and J. T. Hughes in particular ran fine races.

The chess team overcame all opposition beating Atkin $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{2}$, Westminster $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{2}$, and Tate 5—2, thus becoming House champions. Although every member of the team played well, mention must be made of H. S. Jones and Morgan, who won all their matches.

Next term will bring the athletics standards, and, with every member of the House doing his utmost to gain maximum points, the athletics trophy should once more return to Stitt.

R.T.

TATE.

THIS year Tate are continuing to do well; the two senior and two junior Rugby matches played so far have all been won by convincing margins, the most notable being the juniors' 64—nil win over Westminster. Tate were also undefeated in the Table Tennis competition which we won, thus repeating our last year's performance. In the Autumn marksheet Tate were top, but very poor efforts were made in the Cross Country Run and in the Chess competition although in the former the juniors must be congratulated on a fine performance, as must Cundill and Smith in the intermediate. This year Tate have a very good chance of becoming Champion House, but this will only be achieved if a big effort is made by every boy in the house.

C.W.W.

WESTMINSTER.

THE main interest this term in the Coronation Cup Competition has been in Chess, Table Tennis, Cross Country Running, and Rugby. In the Chess Competition Westminster finished third, beating Tate but unfortunately losing to Atkin and Stitt. It is in Cross Country Running that the House has given its best performance; for we obtained second place, Atkin alone beating us. The House finished third in the Table Tennis Competition, beating Stitt but losing to Tate and Atkin. Both of these matches were lost very narrowly.

At Rugby we have given our poorest performances. In Senior House Rugby the House has lost to Atkin (26-8) and Tate 21-0. Two inglorious matches have been played to date in the Junior series, one against Atkin, lost 0-56, and the other against Tate, lost 0-64. There is still one match in both series to be played, against Stitt.

In the Coronation Cup Competition there now remain Athletics, Cricket and Swimming, together with two Marksheets. The Marksheets and Swimming must be won in order to keep Westminster near the top of the competition. Cricket appears to be our brightest hope, as we supply several members of School teams. Every boy must exert himself to the full to obtain the maximum number of standard points, and must enter for as many events on Sports Day as possible. Westminster can and *must* win the Sports.

J.E.J.

Libraria

TAKEN somewhat unceremoniously by the hand of 1953, and dragged on at a breath-taking pace towards June, we find time with difficulty to drag ourselves away from the scent-laden breezes of Elysium into such a mundane atmosphere as reality affords.

The only really serious influences this term have been external ones, such as the threat of the floods, at the suggestion of which we had vivid pictures of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board floating up Grange Road, and immediately took to the library tables, complete with biscuit-tins and beer-bottles, as well as the extra precaution of D—v—s's pyjamas as possible distress-signals.

At this our first opportunity to thank you all for the support you provided at our production of 'Macbeth' at Christmas, we point out to some who are possibly a little puzzled at the connection that it was intended to have a modern touch—you know, "Macbeth," or "The Tragedy of Late Night Bottle Parties."

And now for the map. Should there be any budding historians who wish to examine it, pray let them do so. Like the Rock of Ages it stands in a secluded corner of the library, forgotten, torn, and tattered. One opinion is that it was left by Vasco da Gama when he made his celebrated voyage up the Whetstone on his way to Brownlow Hill, but on the authority of Doctor B. Bernhantzwarlingendunclautz it seems more sensible to suggest that it is an Anglo-Saxon-Bubonic-Celtic map of the Coke Age, showing the whereabouts of the Henry Rose Highbury Club.

And so to work, or, in the words of Vermulus the Earth, "Nullum gaudium nisi in libris," which, freely translated, means "Back to work, boys, and lay off the wimmin!"

So long.

B.D.

Science Notes

WE must first of all apologise for the absence of Science Notes in last term's issue of the *Visor*. We realise that our comrades in the Library will facetiously say it was because we had forgotten how to write, but the real reason was because, even though we are scientists, we still have human pride; to publish all the scandal of the Advanced Physics Lab. would ruin us for life.

Here we might stop to consider the name of our room. We have just referred to it as the Advanced Physics Laboratory. It is equipped to be used as a small Physics Lab., but such use of it is never made. Sometimes it is referred to as the "Biology Lab." and, indeed, practical Biology is occasionally performed there. Since, however, there are only two Biologists in the School, this second name does not seem very suitable. There is another way in which our room is often referred to; that is, as "the room between the labs." This clumsy expression owes its origin, not unnaturally, to the fact that one day an observant person noticed that our room is between the Chemistry Lab. and the Physics Lab. Anyone who has been asked where Mr. X is, when one has been dashing along a crowded corridor, will realise that, should Mr. X happen to be in our abode, the phrase "the room between the labs." is rather too long. Such alternatives as the Prefects' Room or Upper Sixth would probably meet with opposition from our friends in the Library. However, all this worry over the name of our room will be brought to an end relatively soon. In 1954 it might well bear some such proud title as "Miss Primm's Class," or "Big Boys—Standard 4."

In connection with actual events which we have taken part in this term, we started off by attending a few lectures at Liverpool University. The first was called "How to Solve Mathematical Problems," and merely served to confirm our belief that mathematicians are just a little "peculiar." Another of the lectures, entitled "Christmas Feasting," we considered a complete failure because there was no practical work involved.

From time to time during the term one or other of us has been called up to a university for an interview. These interviews might well serve a useful purpose from the professors' point of view, but we find it very exasperating to pay the train fare to, say, Birmingham, only to be told a day or two later that Birmingham University has no room for us.

The results of this year's Cross Country Race showed that we have no first-class marathon runners amongst us. The first two places went to the Lower Sixth, whom we duly congratulate. There were two members of the Lower Sixth, however, who did not do as well as was expected, considering what wonderful stamina their lungs usually display.

E.T.

ACCUMULATOR HIRE SERVICE

LOANED, COLLECTED & DELIVERED (all districts)

*CAR & MOTOR CYCLE BATTERIES collected and
Charged*

New Batteries Supplied (12 Months Guaranteed)

Radios, Electric Kettles, Irons etc., Repair Service

The Park Radio Service
292 Conway Street,
Birkenhead.



FOR
THE
WORLD'S
FINEST
WATCHES

OMEGA, ROLEX, LONGINES,
CRUSADER, ACCURIST,, ROTARY,
CYMA, AVIA, VERTEX, etc.

VISIT . . .

PYKE & SONS

Phone: B'HEAD 7444/5

257 Grange Rd.
BIRKENHEAD

Phone: CENTRAL 2956

16-18 Exchange St. East
LIVERPOOL

Phone: B'HEAD 403

42 Market St.
BIRKENHEAD

A.E. MEGGS

(LATE G. TAYLOR)

OXTON ROAD FRUIT MARKET

FRESH FRUIT
and VEGETABLES

(CANTEENS, SHIPPING, ETC., SUPPLIED)

*Quick Frozen Fruit and
Vegetables Supplied*

51/53 OXTON ROAD
BIRKENHEAD

Phone. : B'HEAD 330

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

By the time we see these words in print, that great event of the Easter Term, Speech Day, will have passed. Then we shall know who are the most popular prefects, and, what interests us more, which of the wretches in our care dare to jeer at a prefect. By that time also we shall know the results of our "Mock," which thought brings these notes to a hasty close, amidst the dusting of textbooks, the sharpening of wits, and the reluctant return to hard work.

Form Notes

6A.

AS the time approaches when the *Visor* will once more go to press, so it is time for us to give an account of the term's activities in this, the smallest form in the school. The first interesting point to note is that our entire contingent now stays for School dinners—perhaps this is the explanation of our increasing laziness, and also that we have all had a day or two off. (N.B. This is no idle supposition, as even Mr. *l*c*lm, who hadn't been absent within living memory, was actually away for one day).

In School activities N*wb* has again been one of the outstanding representatives of the rugby team, and has scored more tries (and also, according to his morning after accounts and demonstrations, broken more necks) than ever before; he also ran well again in the cross country race, finishing sixth. Our star cross country runner, however, W*ll*, ran the winner, Dodd, very close, to finish second; both of them thus emulating last year's performance.

It was with a great deal of pleasure that I bumped into my old friend Sir D. Chugg, P.N., D.Litt., M.A., now Professor of Cookery in the canteen department at Shell University. (N.B. Since that time, Sir Oswald has been awarded his Ph.D. (Cantab.) for his voluminous 'Compiète Cookery Primer'—six volumes at twenty-one and sixpence each). When I met him he had just been to sit a cookery examination in which it was necessary for him to get a distinction before the University would accept him; happily he obtained eighty-five per cent., and was promptly installed in the professorship—congrats Sir Oswald! I asked him if he could possibly oblige the Head by coming along on Speech Night to distribute the prizes. He regretted that he could not as he was already booked up for that particular night, having obtained tickets for his family and himself to see Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse version of 'Sound Barrier' at the Roxy—happy days, Sir Oswald!

No doubt many of our readers missed (with regret?) the contribution from the Science mob last term. We have been warned that their bumper article is to appear in this issue. The illiteracy of these scientists-to-

be is absolutely amazing; but we feel that they have taken things a little too far if there is any truth in the rumour that they submitted their *Visor* article carved in little comic pictures on granite slabs (from the Physics Lab.?). No doubt the editor hopes that this is untrue since none of the *Visor* editorial staff is skilled in deciphering (= to make out what is unintelligible or obscure—for the benefit of those scientists who might not have dictionaries). This term the scientists have taken a delight in breaking our electric fire but have unfortunately and invariably had to resort to the superior scientific faculties of one of the arts men in order to mend it again.

We were very disappointed when we learned that our poor, nervous friend Mr. B*tt* is going to leave us at the end of the year. We believe that he is going down under; he must not miss his argument with the devil! But we must not inflict any further humiliation upon them. Our superiority is obvious, and, though we have endeavoured to write something to their credit, the task has proved too great for us.

65.

SINCE no news from our lonely outpost was issued in the last edition of the *Visor*, a determined effort has now been made to let the outside world know we are still surviving. Our numbers are indeed very small, but we still have more than the Art mob, although one of their members may be worth two. We share our den with them and, as a result, by four o'clock every afternoon the boards are covered with drawings which closely resemble those of the cave artists.

Thanks to our sole source of heat, we have survived the long bitter winter; by perilous journeys through slush or ice, we have even reached headquarters. Our den having become frozen up, we have been forced to spend our time either wandering round or dodging the Staff.

The view from the windows of our den is magnificent—a beautiful park with gently tilting strata and a rich alluvial soil (see volume xii. of *The Structure of Whetstone Lane*). Many trees, shrubs, and flowers can be seen, and a new species of paper bag has recently been discovered. Herds of elephants often stampede past our door, and swine roam the park. Their numbers seem to be decreasing, probably owing to the fact that an important building is situated in the grounds. Some of the Art mob, encouraged by this fact, now stay dinners regularly, but there is still one of our members who has not dared to do so. A great deal of trouble arose owing to the fact that N*wb* was accused of eating seven trays of eccles cake. Having eaten enough to last him for a while, he did not stay for the next few days.

After dinner our den is locked up, and so we again have to find another place; we have discovered that the advanced Physics lab. suits us well for many reasons. Some of us have found this rather boring and have tried to improve our sporting abilities by rounding up the criminals in the park or playing in the gym.

Perhaps we have given away too many secrets, but we still have room to bid you a hearty adieu!

5A.

WE begin 5A's contributions with Hubbard's interesting article on

THE SANDS OF DEE.

Although only a few years ago the tide regularly washed Parkgate sea wall where there now exists a green marsh, the River Dee estuary has in reality been silting up for centuries.

The twelfth century Bonewaldesthorpe's Tower on Chester city walls was once washed by Dee waters, but after a short time the river receded, and in 1322 the Water Tower was built some way to the west, to guard the river. To-day the water is much further away, and the two towers are in a garden. Soon the then busy port's commerce suffered; for the river was becoming unnavigable. In 1560 a collection was made in all the churches of the country to raise a fund for the building of the "New Kay." Thus Parkgate was born.

A hundred years later Parkgate was a prosperous port dealing with nearly all the Irish traffic. But the shifting sands were still troublesome; for in 1674 Yarranton remarked that the river was choked with silt and that large vessels could not reach Chester, being obliged to lie in a bad harbour at "Neason." He goes on to say that much of the Dee trade had gone to "Leverpoole." The complete downfall of the Dee was not till much later however.

Parkgate and Neston improved their facilities, and became popular and fashionable resorts. The eighteenth century saw Parkgate's golden age; and a theatre, assembly rooms, and other attractions sprang up.

At this time the port of Dawpool was increasing in importance, and in 1822 Thomas Telford reconstructed its harbour. To-day it has completely vanished, as has the great mansion of Dawpool near by; for all the trade left the Dee for the Mersey.

The reclaimed land at Sealand, Burton Marshes with their romantic Denhall (the setting of the novel "The House of the Spaniard"), the unworked Denhall Collieries, and Neston Harbour's remains, are also reminders of the hey-day of western Wirral.

The sands of the Dee are still shifting, and a research plant takes several million gallons of water from it daily. But whatever happens to

the estuary in future times, whether the Dee Bridge is built, or whether it is dredged or even built upon, the Wirral man in days ahead, even if he looks from Hilbre Island across acres of roofs and chimneys, will remember with pride the ancient ports of the Dee.

Next, Hodgson offers some reflections on

THE MAGIC MILE.

Nowadays everybody who has the least interest in athletics is talking about the "Four-Minute Mile." It is an achievement which attracts the imagination of both expert and novice.

In 1920, Norman Taber held the record at four minutes twelve point six seconds, and in 1944 Hagg of Sweden established the existing record of four minutes one point three seconds. It seems incredible that, after twenty-four years of continual improvement in the standard of middle-distance running, the time could only be improved by eleven point three seconds.

It is also surprising that, in spite of further all-round improvement in the standard since 1944, no one has approached to within a second of Hagg's time, although Strand and Lueg have equalled his performance over fifteen hundred metres.

There were eleven people in 1952 who ran the mile (or fifteen hundred metre equivalent) in under four minutes seven seconds; surely, therefore, there are several people capable of setting up a new world record this season? It has been said that Roger Bannister could do it if he had more international opposition. A few months ago, John Landy, the brilliant new Australian runner, tried to establish a new record, but was handicapped by a lack of pacemakers; he ran the mile in a little over four minutes two seconds.

The 'Four-Minute Mile' will be achieved someday, and after that we shall begin to look forward to a target of three minutes fifty-five seconds. But don't you think that the 'magic four minutes' are much more fascinating?

Finally, Tudor tells us about

PORT RADAR.

Last December I had the pleasure of visiting Liverpool radar station Port Radar, or Neptune radar, as it is known, which is situated at the extreme north end of Gladstone Dock. The station is not very large, and all that can be seen from the river is a white tower at the top of which is the revolving scanner; next to this scanner is a multi-element short-wave beam aerial. When we arrived we were invited into a small, cosy room, around the walls of which were ranged radio receivers and

transmitters. Later we were shown into a darkened room where the radio vision apparatus was kept. Two men sat at the control desk, surrounded by six screens showing different parts of the Mersey. These men were talking by their inter-com. to the chap in the radio room who gave the messages to the ships. When we went back to the room by which we entered, a message was coming through on the tele-printer from Point Lynas. Before we went, we had a talk to some of the operators, and thanked them very much for showing us round.

5B.

OUR first article, written by D. G. Williams, tells of his experiences while camping in the Lake District.

AN ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY.

On a Saturday morning about 7-30 a.m., the 78th Birkenhead Air Scouts started out on their way to camp at Coniston Water in the Lake District. The route we took was:—Birkenhead—Liverpool—Preston—Lancaster—Kendal—Coniston.

Unfortunately it was raining when we arrived, but we soon had our tents pitched and enjoyed a hot meal.

We took three kayaks with us for use on the lake; but, although the weather was fairly good, we couldn't use them much for the first week. On the Wednesday evening we went to see "Annie Get Your Gun" in the village. The cinema was a mobile type, which comes only once a week, with ancient pictures as well. The second week was not so good, because firstly the weather was not as good, and secondly the results of the G.C.E. for some of us threw a gloom over the whole camp. This rain raised the level of the Lake about two feet, but the sunshine that followed began to evaporate it fairly quickly.

In the last few days we all took advantage of the weather and went fishing, swimming, and kayaking all afternoon for about three days. Early in the morning and late in the evening the lake was so calm that I think that if John Cobb had been there he would have been able to make an attempt to beat the record.

A few nights before leaving we had our Camp Fire. But, like all good things, it had to end, and at about 11-30 a.m. we left in the lorry on our homeward journey.

Booth writes about his football "idol" in his article.

MY FAVOURITE SPORTSMAN.

My favourite sportsman is Tommy Lawton former England and Everton footballer. He started his career at the age of seventeen when assistant-secretary of Burnley football club. One morning, while sorting the morning post for Burnley, he answered the 'phone four times. Each time a different club wanted to sign him on, but in the end he went

to Everton. In his first game for Everton, he scored the first goal. At the end of the same season Everton toured Denmark, and Lawton was chosen as one of the party. Among the many players with whom Tommy Lawton became friendly were the great Dixie Dean, Everton's centre forward, and little Alex Stevenson, one of Ireland's greatest inside-forwards. During the summer, Lawton played for Burnley Lancashire League Cricket Team, and was their top scorer. In one match against Colne he hit ninety-one out of a hundred and thirty; for this the hat was passed round the ground, and twenty-five pounds were collected.

When barely nineteen he was chosen for England against Wales, the youngest player ever to play for England. Since then he has played in more than fifteen International matches. When still playing for Everton he was transferred to Chelsea, from where he was again transferred, this time to Notts County for a record fee. From Notts County he was transferred to Brentford, where he is now player-manager with a brilliant record of football history behind him. Apart from Dixie Dean, Tommy Lawton is the greatest centre-forward England has ever had.

The next article is by Connolly.

MY FAVOURITE FILM STAR.

Ever since I started to toddle round to the children's matinee at the local cinema, all cartoons have had a great fascination for me. They were first brought to my notice when a dog came on wearing a school-master's gown and square. This so stirred my imagination that I could easily picture the same gown and square on a master in our school. The dog who had first fired my imagination was called Pluto. Ever since then I have paid my money at any cinema where he was showing.

Lately this mania has been wearing off; I have noticed that dogs are not the only actors on the screen. I often see other fascinating creatures, but with two legs. One especially fixed itself in my memory. The bills proclaimed it as "A new attraction." It was called Charlie Chaplin. He was only a young actor, but one who showed great talent in his stage and screen career. As a description once put it: "This talented young man is likely to become one of the leading Shakespearean actors of the century." I myself have seen him in "Julius Caesar" and also in "Much Ado About Nothing." He was a great success in this!

Mr. Chaplin has appeared in a few short comedy sketches, and the scene in which most film-goers picture him is when he walks down the centre gangway of the upper circle in a theatre and steps right over the balcony into the stalls far below. He is distinguished by a short, dark moustache, a bowler hat, a cane, and a pair of extra-long shoes. That is when he is not acting Shakespeare.

D. A. Jones dramatically describes some typical hospital treatment in his article,

A STRANGE EXPERIENCE.

About three years ago I broke my arm in the gym. I was taken to the secretary's room, and eventually arrived at the hospital. I was taken to the "X-ray" room, and was made to put my arm in different positions in order to be photographed. It hurt a great deal. Then, after hours of waiting it seemed, I was taken to the operating theatre and lay on the table. A mask was held over my nose and mouth, and I was told to breathe in deeply. Gradually my senses left me, but I could faintly hear the doctor and nurses talking all the time I was dreaming. The figures in my dream seemed to glow; except for this everything was dark, and I could feel nothing. I woke up twitching with pain that I could not feel, and then in a few seconds I could. The pain soon left me, and I felt very comfortable; and my broken arm was warm and rested in the plaster case which was not yet hard. I did not know where I was, at first, as I could only see the white-tiled ceiling. I could not move, and, when I could, I felt very dizzy. That was my strangest experience.

Finally Britton writing during one of his more pensive moods, contributes a short essay which calls

WINTER EVENINGS.

As you walk home from school through the drizzle and fog on a dusk, winter evening, your mind is apt to wander back to the joys of the past summer evenings, when after finishing your homework you would have some arrangement such as a game of cricket or a ramble across the fields. One of these evenings may stand out to you in particular, and once again you can picture yourself with all your friends playing tick in a newly cut hay field, with the red sun and the singing of the birds adding the finishing touch to this delightful scene. These dreams could go on for ever, but the glow of the sun turns back into a traffic light, and the sound of the birds is replaced by the noise of the traffic.

The sight of your bus looming up in front of you brings you back to your senses, and you automatically start running to gain a seat on the rain-soaked vehicle. When you are eventually seated, you try to steal a glance through the steamed windows, but the rain and fog prevent this, and you must be content to sit and look at the cold, wet miserable people around you. Just as you are getting warm and comfortable, you notice it is time to alight, and very discontentedly you rise from your seat and make a somewhat jerky way to the wet platform. By now darkness has completely set in, and you must hurry straight

home, where you are greeted by a blazing fire in front of which you devour your long-awaited tea. After this you snuggle down in a cosy armchair, prepared to stay all evening and listen to your favourite programmes on the radio, when suddenly you are struck by a horrible thought—you have got some detested English homework, followed by some dreaded Maths. This takes up all your evening, and so, finding nothing more to remain downstairs for, you go to bed and lie there listening to the patter of the rain on the window.

4A.

OF the many interesting articles contributed by 4A, we have, unfortunately, room for only a few. We begin with Lloyd's, on

FALCONRY

One of the most universally practised of all sports, falconry demands ideal co-operation between man and bird. This is difficult to achieve because the training of hawks requires great patience and cannot be considered successful until complete understanding and confidence have been established between the falconer and his hawk.

The hawk may be taken from its nest, before it has learned to fly, when it is called an eyess (or eyass), or else trapped when full grown and then tamed; in which case it is known as a haggard (or blue hawk). The first essential is to "build up" the eyass. It may come from an eyrie renowned for the fighting spirit and quality of its birds, but unless the young falcon is toughened it cannot hope to compete on fair terms with rooks and game birds reared in the wild state. Also, because there is no course of training to compete with that designed by nature, the eyass—which could be either a falcon or a tiercel—is given freedom, or else placed at "hack."

After "finding its wings" the falcon is removed to a dark room and, through feeding from the fist, is gradually accustomed to the hand and voice of the trainer. During this period of confinement it wears a hood and jesses, which are short, light strips of leather fitted to the bird's legs. Then, when it is accustomed to its trainer, it is taught to fly ever increasing distances to his fist—this is accomplished with food.

After this essential training, the falcon is flown at an easy target such as a live pigeon—whereupon the bird's training may be regarded as complete. But great care must be taken to ensure the success of its first flight against wild and strong on-the-wing-birds, such as grouse.

Two classes of birds are used in hawking: long-winged hawks, or true falcons, and short-winged hawks. The true falcons include the gyrfalcon, peregrine, hobby, merlin, and kestrel which is very rarely used in falconry. The only short-winged hawks used to any extent are the goshawk and the sparrow-hawk. Both are essentially alike, but the goshawk is by far the bigger of the two. Besides these, others have

been successfully trained, including the golden eagle and the buzzard. In the East, however, other birds are used, such as the oaker falcon of the Syrian Desert, and the heavy-footed Barbary falcon, which may be seen in the bazaars of North Africa together with the beautiful lammer and some eagles.

Some falcons, such as the peregrine, kill their prey by "stooping" from a great height where they have been "waiting on." Others, like the merlin, can outfly even that fastest of all birds, the swift.

Falconry has a language of its own. The prey is called 'the quarry'; striking the quarry in mid-air and clinging to it in mid air is called "baiting" when the game is large, and "trussing" when it is small. The "lure," often a stuffed body of the quarry, is used to entice back the bird after it has been freed. Fighting is called "crabbing," and flying away with the quarry is technically known as "carrying."

Carruthers continues with

LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY PASSENGER SHIPS.

When screw propulsion became firmly established, the large passenger steamers gradually lost the characteristics of the sailing ship, and were built to suit the needs of the new motive power. Both yards and masts continued for some time, but eventually only masts were retained. The stern was straight and slightly raked, and the beak disappeared altogether. The navigating bridge was out of sight, and there was very little superstructure on those flush-decked steamers. By 1890 twin-screw passenger liners were travelling from Great Britain to New York in less than six days.

Not only because competition increased, but also to attract custom, more consideration was given to passenger accommodation. Rivalry was keen, especially on the Atlantic service, and owners and builders never relaxed their efforts to reduce the time and increase the luxury of the voyage.

The "Blue Riband" of the Atlantic service is an honour given to a ship which holds the record for the shortest time taken to sail from Bishop Rock to Nantucket Light. It has been held in turn by all the nations interested in the service.

Next, H. S. Jones enlightens us on:

THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL.

In 1871, a rugby team was composed of twenty players, which, in 1877, was reduced to the now familiar number of fifteen. Until about 1910, however, the play was extremely 'stodgy'—mainly due to the arrangement of the players. In the pack there were nine men whose most important job was to carry the ball through the opposing pack,

or else heel it to the two halves in the rear. When a half got possession of the ball, he promptly passed it to one of the three-quarters who then ran on to score, or else was tackled. Taken as a whole, the forwards did the 'donkey-work,' the three-quarters did the 'showy work,' the halves were the links between the two, and the full-back had the same responsible task that he has to-day. Individual brilliancy rather than combination was the keynote of the game. On wet days, when the three-quarters were much handicapped by the slippery state of the ground, Rugby football often degenerated into a succession of scrimmages, very exhausting to the players, and equally uninteresting to the spectators. Evidently play of a more open nature was needed.

The change in the general character of the game must be attributed largely to the Welsh clubs who, about 1890, reduced the number of forwards to eight, and added a player to the three-quarters. The two halves were each assigned distinct duties: the inside-half passed the ball from the scrum or line-out to the outside-half, who thus served as a link between the former and the three-quarters. The forwards still had hard pushing to do in the scrum, but were encouraged to break away the moment the ball was out and, by dribbling or passing, to break through the opposition of their own accord. Among the three-quarter backs, passing was developed into a fine art, but at the expense of the individual brilliancy which had characterised the earlier play. In short, fine combination among all the players together with strategy and tactics became the order of the day.

Finally Dean recalls

ZATPEK'S OLYMPICS.

The 1952 Olympic Games will always be remembered as Zatopek's Olympics, for Zatopek not only won both the 5,000 and the 10,000 metres and the Marathon races, but also succeeded in setting up record times. In the five thousand metres, with a stupendous burst of speed, he beat the second man, Mimoun of France, by five yards; whilst in the ten thousand metres he simply overtook his opponents one after another, finishing fifteen seconds ahead of the second man. It was after breaking Olympic records for seven days that Zatopek ran under the arch into an expectant Helsinki Stadium after just completing a twenty-six mile marathon far ahead of all his rivals. The crowd rose and merged their voices into one gigantic shout of welcome and admiration. This was Zatopek's first marathon, and he had never once trained over the full distance; yet he finished over two minutes ahead of his nearest rival. It was interesting to note that his wife, Dana, also won an Olympic Gold medal for winning the women's Throwing the Javelin event, for which she set up a new world record.

TELEGRAPH RD., **HARTHEN'S** 49 OXTON RD..
HESWALL BIRKENHEAD
(Tel. Heswall 115) (Tel. B'head 2547)

POULTRY & DOG FOOD SPECIALISTS

UNRATIONED POULTRY, PIG and RABBIT

FOOD OF UNEQUALLED QUALITY

ALL BRANDS OF CATTLE, HORSE and PIG FOODS

SUPPLIED (including "BLUECROSS" and SPILLERS)

PIGEON CORN A SPECIALITY

SUPPLIERS OF BKAN TO BIRKENHEAD RABBIT CLUB.

≡≡≡ TUTTY'S ≡≡≡

20 Grange Road West

BIRKENHEAD 1520

44 Upton Road

BIRKENHEAD 1901

CHANDLERY

DOMESTIC HARDWARE

CHINA

Everything for the Garden

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

When the war was over, however, there were no aeroplanes left to make models of, and so people resorted to making flying models with which they held competitions and formed clubs.

The idea of making models for competition was naturally accompanied by the desire for speed, which prompted the fitting of petrol or diesel engines and, later on, engines, in order to keep the models up to date. As a result, there is now a wide range of model aircraft from small, solid gliders to great petrol models, with four to six foot wing spans.

Taken as a whole, aero-modelling is really a craft, and many a pleasant afternoon can be spent building a model, after which we can go into the open to fly it and so enjoy the fresh air.

3A.

OF the many articles contributed by 3A this term, we begin with that of A. Jones, on

THE CORONATION OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

William the Conqueror was crowned on Christmas Day 1066—an unfortunate day for many of the crowds who had come to watch the ceremony. The streets and lanes of London and all approaches to Westminster were guarded by Norman soldiers, whilst inside the Abbey itself there was a crowd of mostly English spectators. When the time for the "Recognition" service came and the English were asked whether or not they should accept William as their King, they replied with mighty shouts of "Yea! Yea!" Whereupon the Norman guards, thinking the shout spelt trouble for William, fell upon the Saxon crowds in the streets, and set fire to many buildings and even to the Abbey gates. In a panic, the Abbey inmates rushed outside, leaving only William and the Bishops in the building, who, despite all these tumultuous proceedings, carried on with the ceremony. Thus, while Norman fought Saxon, William the Conqueror was crowned King of England.

We continue with Robinson's account of his visit to

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

When I visited London last year, my father took me to see St. Paul's Cathedral. The first thing that I noticed while still outside was the huge, green dome of the Cathedral. After entering through the two doors, and seeing the marvellously carved pulpit, we then walked round looking at the statues of some notable hymn writers. After this, we went up into the Whispering Gallery by means of a long, narrow, spiral staircase, eventually entering through a very small door. My father went to one end of the gallery, and I went to the other, and on whispering to each other, we could hear each other quite clearly. Then we walked to the balcony outside, from where we could see nearly all London, after which we left to find other places of interest.

Next, we have Newcombe's article on

CLACTON-ON-SEA'S WORLD-FAMOUS PIER.

Clacton Pier, often referred to as "Britain's Playground over the Sea," is an entertainment centre which provides amusement of every kind all day long. Approached directly from Clacton's main thoroughfare under the Venetian Bridge, the pier is a popular rendezvous with all visitors. To the right of the main entrance with its imposing facade is the Blue Lagoon ballroom, famous as the largest dance hall over the sea in this country, whilst to the left is the vast amusement pavilion with its many attractions, games, and rides. Behind the Blue Lagoon is the Ocean Theatre, with a seating capacity of 1,275.

Across from the Ocean Theatre is the magnificent open-air swimming pool, with accommodation for nearly 5,000 spectators, where many events of national and international character are staged, and weekly galas, championship events and water polo matches are held throughout the summer. To the right of the pool, in the shadow of the steel Stella, are a number of exciting outdoor games and amusements. At the far end of the promenade deck are the Jolly Roger theatre, the lifeboat house and the open-air concert party arena. From the berthing arm, modern luxury pleasure-steamers sail during the season on glorious sea-trips through sheltered waters around the coast.

Finally, Grayson tells us about

PIONEERS OF FLIGHT.

Orville and Wilbur Wright were American brothers born in 1871 and 1867 respectively. Both became deeply interested in the possibility of mechanical flight, and, having studied the results of German gliding experiments and devised some improvements in the equilibrium of gliders, they designed and completed a power-driven aeroplane propelled by a twelve horse-power petrol motor. In this four flights were made, the longest being of fifty-nine seconds. In 1905 Wilbur Wright flew twenty-four miles in thirty-eight minutes. In 1908, however, he did even better, staying in the air for one hour fifteen minutes.

3B.

TO begin 3B's form notes Goulding provides us with some amazing information about

BIG BEN.

Big Ben is ninety-five years old. The name is popularly applied to the clock itself, but it really belongs to the bell that strikes the hour. The clock's real name is the Great Clock of the Palace of Westminster. It has struck more than 800,000 hours, striking in all 5,200,000 times. The hour-hands are made of gun metal, and each one is 9 ft. long and

weighs 6 hundredweight. The minute-hands are of tubular copper, and each is 14-ft. long and weighs two hundredweight.

In a year the tip of each minute-hand travels 100 miles.

Next R. Goat tells us something about that interesting creature,

THE MOLE.

A mole's body is shaped like an arrow-head so that it is a living tunnelling tool. All its power and strength is in its thick shoulders. Its soft fur will lie in any direction because each delicate hair is inserted in the skin perpendicular'y, so that the mole can move rapidly either backwards or forwards with great ease.

You can hardly call the mole a blind animal; but, as it lives for the most time underground, its power of vision must be small. However, the mole has an acute sense of smell and is able to move rather quickly on hearing a strange noise.

William Billing donates some facts on

SECRET INTRIGUE.

Father, Mother, and two elder sisters all like to read it. So the bob has to be borrowed nonchalant'y. First tap Dad; no good! Two working sisters; "What do you think we are"? Next long-suffering Mum. The bob is loaned on condition that she shares in 'it.'

At last the day arrives, and feeling like Professor Moriarty, I roll it up and hide it at the bottom of my satchel, covered by some innocent-looking literature. On arriving home I dash straight upstairs and barricade myself in my bedroom and then proceed to delve into the depths of the *Visor*.

Next M. K. Porter provides us with a description of a

DRESS REHEARSAL.

When I went to the first dress rehearsal for our scout show, I was amazed by the tremendous amount of noise that was going on. People were rushing about the place as if the devil were at their heels, and the producer was shouting orders, but nobody was taking any notice of him.

But down in the dressing-rooms it looked as if a tornado had hit them. Bits of costume were all over the place and whenever anybody wanted his costume he could very seldom find it. There were dozens of little mishaps all through the rehearsal, and it seemed as if the show had not been rehearsed before.

After a second run through, it began to look like a show, and I went home tired but happy.

Finally the Form Notes are supplied by D. Jones and K. Cundill.

As we come towards the end of another term, we find Clampitt topping the marksheet once more. The Form keeps up its reputation on the games field, being represented as follows: For the Bantams, Clampitt, Meredith, Cundill, Pepper, and Billing. The following play for

NOLANS

FLORAL ART DEPT.



FRESH FLOWERS
.. *DAILY* ..

—
FLORAL TOKENS
FOR ALL OCCASIONS



24 OXTON ROAD,
BIRKENHEAD

Telephone: Birkenhead 2155

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

*Breathes there the man with soul so dead
Who never tasted HODGSON'S BREAD,
But ate the other stuff instead:
Who ne'er, for sweet enjoyment's sake,
Discovered heir Delicious Cake?*

*He should remember that his health
Depends on FOOD and not on wealth,
And when OUR food is put to test
Compared with others, it's THE BEST.*

W. Y. HODGSON & Co.

High Class Bakers & Confectioners.

381 BOROUGH RD., Birkenhead

CONTRACTORS TO H.M. GOVERNMENT.

EST. 1902



JAMES HEANEY & CO.,
*General Electrical Contractors
& Radio Engineers*

**AUTHORISED DEALERS FOR HOOVER CLEANERS AND
WASHING MACHINES**

**363 WOODCHURCH ROAD,
PRENTON, BIRKENHEAD**

Telephone : Birkenhead 424

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

their houses:—Evans, Olson, J. Wood, Meredith, Cundill, and Pyper.

Cundill finished third in the Intermediate Annual Cross Country. Also Porter was in the Christmas Gymnastics Display. We have had a Soccer team ready to play against 3A a few times, but they have not been able to turn out yet.

2A.

THIS form produced a wealth of information about the Coronation.

Salmon's article, although not directly dealing with that festival but certainly having a royal flavour, was selected.

WINDSOR.

"This royal throne of Kings."—SHAKESPEARE.

West of London, on the banks of the Thames, lies Windsor. Modern trends seem to have passed by this picturesque town, except for, perhaps, tourist cars and streamlined motor-boats on the river.

The River Thames at Windsor is considered by many the perfect paradise. Eights from adjacent Eton and holiday-makers find it perfect for boating, and London children find it perfect for paddling in and playing on its clayey banks. It is rather a monotony for anglers to haul in roach after roach and perch after perch, after hardly any waiting.

Dominating the whole scene at Windsor is the castle, in which many British monarchs have been buried. When one enters through the Main Gate one cannot help noticing the gigantic Keep, which provides excellent opportunity for a good snapshot. If, by chance, the Royal Family happens to be in residence, no one is allowed inside, but the Changing of the Guard can be seen every two hours.

Almost all roads in Windsor lead uphill or downhill, as the builders of the castle seem to have taken advantage of the prominent position of the hilltop. The hill seems to have affected a certain house in the main street. It leans at a seemingly dangerous angle, and photographers constantly seek a break in the traffic to "snap" it.

Jolléy, who is obviously familiar with Canvey Island, gives us some first-hand information about the recently devastated area.

FLOODS AT CANVEY ISLAND.

As most of you have read, one of the most seriously affected areas in the recent floods was Canvey Island. This Thames Estuary island is about five miles from Southend-on-Sea where I used to live, and I am very familiar with the district.

Canvey Island was reclaimed by Dutch people many years ago, and this is still noticeable as most of the roads bear Dutch names. There is also a small church of Dutch design, and the whole area is a complete change from the mainland.

A sea wall, twenty feet high in places, normally keeps out the water of the Thames Estuary, but on the occasion of the recent floods there were ninety-seven breaches.

As most of the houses are bungalows, it is easy to imagine the devastation which has been caused. The inhabitants were evacuated to Benfleet, which is joined to Canvey Island by a single bridge. This bridge slides back over the road and opens up the creek separating the mainland and the island to allow the fishing and cockle boats to pass into their jetties.

Knowing the Island as I do, I feel sure that it will be a long time before I shall see it as I once saw it.

Lowry provides an interesting comparison between the aircraft of the pioneers and those of to-day in his article:

EARLY AEROPLANES.

The first aeroplane flew in 1903. In 1908 the number of aeroplanes in the world began to increase rapidly. In 1909, Bleriot, a Frenchman flying his own machine, crossed the Channel, and landed near Dover. That event made a far deeper impression upon the people of this country than did the historic flight of 1903. "Great Britain is no longer an island," everyone cried, but that discovery seemed to bode nothing but evil for Great Britain. The aeroplanes of those days were queer-looking machines, constructed of wood, linen, and wires. They were reputed to be dangerous to fly, were always going wrong, and were hardly capable of carrying more than a pilot and one passenger.

As a weapon of war the aeroplane was regarded as far too unreliable and inefficient to be of much use to the Army or to the Navy. Yet by 1918 the aeroplane was able to intervene in land battles and to give valuable help in naval engagements. The aeroplane's most deadly weapon was the hand-grénade. Shots were, however, exchanged between adversaries with rifles, carbines, revolvers, and even automatic and sporting guns.

2B.

OF the many interesting articles submitted by 2B, we begin with Dixon's description of

CHEDDAR GORGE.

Cheddar Gorge is one of the most famous historic places in Somerset. The coach enters the Gorge at the top end and travels slowly down the hill into the village, while the steep cliffs tower up on either side. After the coach has pulled in at the village, you can then go and explore for yourself the famous Cheddar Caves. After paying, you are led by a guide into a large carvè, the walls of which are damp and cold, and from there into many more caves each with a different wonder of its

own. In one, for example, there is a large stalagnite in the shape of a blanket; and in another there is a pool of water in which the reflection of the rocks above is seen quite clearly.

After coming out of the caves, you pay a penny to climb "Jacob's Ladder"—which has three hundred and seventy steps. From the top of the Ladder you can climb a tower which commands a good view of the surrounding country. Having come down, you then visit a large cafe, the glass roof of which has been made into a goldfish pond. After a refreshing drink you find it is time to leave Cheddar Gorge after an enjoyable visit.

We continue with a poem by Andrews:

As the Spring nears,
We hear the cuckoo sing,
The flowers open out—
A sign to show it's Spring.
The daffodil is slender,
And bows its yellow head;
The crocus and the snowdrop too,
Peep from their flower bed.
The birds are singing at early morn,
The sun is shining bright,
We open our eyes and yawn,
And see the ray of light.

Next, McIntosh tells us about:

THE ABERDEEN FISH MARKET.

The fish trawlers and drifters come in to Aberdeen on Mondays and Saturday—I went there, with my father, one Saturday, taking my camera with me to take some photographs of the boats and fish. After watching the men unloading the fish into large boxes and baskets, we then walked along to the busiest end of the market; here we saw a very big fish—six feet long with a very big tail—and so we took a photograph of it.

Then we walked further along through the different rows of fish; skate (a squat fish), herring, and mackerel. You have to be very careful when walking, as the floor is very slippery. We left the fish market at about ten o'clock, and then went home.

We conclude with Cathy's article on

A TRIP TO BELFAST.

This trip was made on the "M.V. Ulster Monarch" which started from Prince's Dock, Liverpool, and then proceeded to the lock; as the

water level went down, the walls of the lock towered above us, until eventually, at about half-past-nine, we sailed into the river itself. At first, all the passengers stood at the railings, but as soon as we were in the open sea a cold wind arose, and everyone went inside; we had a meal in the restaurant. As there was nothing else to do, and it was getting late, we all went into our cabins. About half-past-five next morning people began to get up. After breakfasting in the restaurant we went on deck from where we could see, on both sides of the ship, the mountains and dales surrounding Belfast Lough. As the ship sailed between the two rows of buoys, people remarked upon the greenness of the water. About half an hour later the ship passed great aircraft carriers (one of which was the *Eagle*), and then sailed into the great Harland and Wolfe shipbuilding yard from where we arrived at the Queen's Quay; after docking, we disembarked, thus ending a most enjoyable voyage.

1A.

T. JONES and Noel write about the form's activities in their Form Notes:

Once more Easter-Tide comes; that means contributions for the *Visor*. In the rugby match played on February 9th we lost by nine points to three, the School try being scored by M. Quinn. In the Junior Cross Country Championship, run on February 13th, T. Jones came third, being beaten by two second form boys. James Needham gave a spectacular performance with a ventriloquist's doll at the Christmas party. During the Easter holidays a team of chess club players will play some matches in Liverpool. Our form is represented by V. Broadbere and M. Noel. W. Keating has competed recently in a number of swimming and diving competitions. Incidentally, swimming will again be on the time-table next term. In this Coronation year we close our notes by wishing all boys a successful term.

Broadbere gives us sound advice in his poem

HURT NO LIVING THING.

Hurt no living thing,
Neither ladybird nor butterfly,
Nor moth with dusty wing,
Nor cricket chirping cheerily,
Nor grasshopper so light of leap,
Nor dancing gnat nor beetle fat,
Nor harmless worms that creep.
Oh, hurt no living thing!

W. & J. E. PLATT

Builders and
Contractors :-

422 Woodchurch Road
BIRKENHEAD.

Telephone - - - Mountwood 2687

PLEASE PATRONISE OUR ADVERTISERS.

Everything for the HOME and the FAMILY...

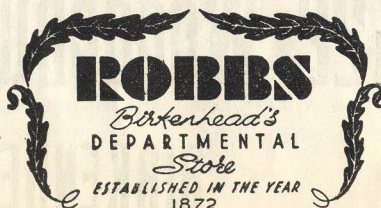
ROBBS... The complete departmental Store,
where personal service & courteous attention
are household words...& where 'value for money'
in School clothing is an established fact.

40 Departments



Hours 9 a.m.—5-20 p.m.

Thurs. 1 p.m.



CAFE-RESTAURANT • LADIES HAIRDRESSING

ROBB BROTHERS LTD • CHARING CROSS • BIRKENHEAD

TELEPHONE: BIRKENHEAD 2880

Next, Marshall tells us about his first visit to Chester.

AN INTERESTING DAY.

One fine day during the summer holidays, I visited Chester with my parents. As it was my first visit to Chester, I was enthralled by the heavily timbered houses built in the sixteenth century. The Cathedral, in which we found quite a lot of old history relating to Chester City itself, dates from Norman times.

Later in the evening we visited Chester Zoo, where it was very interesting to watch the animals being fed.

In the homeward journey it was very pleasant to see the green fields again, and I determined that as soon as possible I would visit the historic city again.

Edge has written a short story entitled

THE MYSTERY OF THE LONELY MILL.

One morning Jim and Fred Brown were dozing in their beds when their mother drew back the curtains. The sun was streaming in on the newly-papered walls. Their mother soon woke the boys and told them they were going to the mill, which was built in the sixteenth century.

They had soon packed their haversacks and started on their long trek to the mill. When they reached their destination, they decided to explore the rotten, broken-down staircases, of which there were only a few steps left. Fred, who was always taking risks, started to swarm up the remaining banisters. Jim soon warned him that the banister was unsafe, but Fred took no notice. The banister soon began to creak, and Fred fell. To Jim's surprise Fred went crashing through the mouldy floorboards. Imagine their surprise when Fred revealed the hide-out of a smuggler. The boys were caught, unaware of the danger which was threatening them. A man was standing with a gun in his hand at the open door. He held them up while he spoke in broken English with a foreign accent. Jim picked up a small packing case and hurled it at the criminal. The man was knocked out, and the police took him away to jail after they had been 'phoned by Jim, who had run to the telephone box. The boys were praised and rewarded with ten whole pounds.

18.

WE begin 18's contribution this term with Sutton's instructive article on

FISHING.

Fishing is an enjoyable and worthwhile sport, but before the fisherman can enjoy his day's fishing he must have the proper gear; let us therefore consider the most important part of this gear, namely the rod. It usually consists of two or three splices: the butt, the middle, and the top; and a twelve-foot rod would be serviceable in most waters

for catching roach, rudd, perch, chubb, dace; and many other fresh-water fish. Another equally important part of the gear is the reel, of which there are different types: e.g. the 'clicker' type. The gut or twine, for the rod, can be obtained in two different colours, i.e., blue and, more common, green. For any fresh-water fishing, fifty yards of such gut is required.

The most common types of fish are the roach and the rudd, which live in ponds, lakes, and slow-running streams. The baits necessary to catch these fish are bread, paste, and gentles. The record roach catch on these baits is one weighing three pounds fourteen ounces, and the record rudd is one weighing four pounds eight ounces.

The Pike is the best 'player' when hooked, and sometimes a pike is about a yord or more long—this is because they feed on small fish. If you catch a pike of about eighteen inches in length, you are legally entitled to kill it for eating. The best live baits for catching pike are small rudd or roach. Having hooked a pike, play it until it is still, and then operate the landing net; but, remember, many a good pike has been lost because the fisherman has been too quick in putting the net underneath it.

Next, D. Hughes tells us about

LORD BADEN POWELL.

All boys know that Lord Baden Powell founded the Boy Scouts, but not so many know that during the war he was a secret service agent and a master of disguise. Once he was ordered to find out the position and power of the guns in the Forts of Battano in Dalmatia. For this task he disguised himself as a butter-fly-hunter, and, catching butterflyflies as he went, he approached the forts. He was stopped several times, and examined, but as his equipment consisted only of a butterfly-net, a paint-box, and a sketch-book in which there were paintings of butterflyflies, he was thought to be a harmless bug-hunter. But those butterfly paintings and sketches were no ordinary ones; for into the wings, so cunningly drawn that they looked like markings, Baden-Powell had sketched the outline of the forts, together with the situation and power of every gun.

Thomas continues with his account of

THE SEWING MACHINE.

Elias Howe, an American inventor, tried for years to perfect a sewing machine, but could not find a way of making the needle carry the thread through the material and back again. One night he dreamt he was being attacked by natives armed with spears, each spear having a hole in the end. This gave him the idea of having a hole at the end of the needle for the thread, thus making the 'lock-stitch' possible.

B is for boys both small and tall;
 I is for Institute, best school of all;
 R is for Rugby played very well,
 K is for Knickers torn down as well;
 E is for energy expended each day,
 N is for noise which the boys make at play;
 H is for Harris, the Head of us all,
 E is for exercise—P.T. so called;
 A is for algebra, 'nough said about that,
 D 's for detention; keep it under your hat.

I is for Ingleborough, gateway to sports,
 N is for names from the register called;
 S is for Stitt, the best house of all,
 T is for time which is seen in the hall;
 I is for ink used for writing all this,
 T is for trouble we all try to miss;
 U is for uniform of black and yellow,
 T is for 'try' or tackle of fellow;
 E is for exams which we all hate,
 and also for end, as it's getting late.

Rugby Football

	1st XV.		2nd XV.
Wade Deacon G. S. ....H.	lost 3—27	—	A. lost 0—56
Calday Grange G. S. ....H.	lost 11—12	—	A. lost 3—30
Park High School .....A.	won 11—6	—	H. won 9—3
Old Instonians .....H.	won 9—5	—	—
St. Anselm's College .....H.	won 34—3	—	A. won 54—3
Oldershaw G. S. ....A.	won 28—6	—	—
St. Anselm's College .....H.	won 27—11	—	—
Ruthin School .....A.	won 6—3	—	—
St. Edward's College .....A.	lost 0—21	—	—
Liverpool Collegiate .....A.	lost 3—19	—	—
Wirral Grammar School ...H.	won 20—0	—	A. won 9—8

FIRST XV

Since the last *Visor* went to press the 1st XV. have settled down and have been playing good Rugby. The back division has generally been quite good, but occasionally the forwards have been outweighed, and the team has paid the penalty.

Recently, however, the loss of one of the best forwards, Sherlock, to the Old Boys, has necessitated some changes, and has generally weakened the team. It is hoped, however, that it will resume its winning ways very shortly.

During the Christmas holidays the following boys took part in the public schools games:—N. N. Jones, A. S. Hodgson, T. S. Hodgson, and C. W. Weir. As a result of this, Weir and Jones played for West Cheshire against East Cheshire at New Brighton, and Jones finally played for Cheshire against Lancashire and against Staffordshire. We congratulate him on his fine performance!

The School team has the honour of having twelve of its regular players chosen for the trial game to be held on our ground on 9th March, before the Town team is chosen for the annual game against Liverpool.

COLTS XV.

Rock Ferry High School	W.	14—3
St. Anselm's College	D.	8—8
Oldershaw Grammar Schoolx	W.	29—3
St. Helens C. G. S.	L.	23—8
Ruthin School	W.	8—6
St. Edward's College	W.	14—6

The Colts' team has continued to have a good season, having to date won 11 matches, drawn 2, and lost 5. This term it beat Rock Ferry High School, Oldershaw Grammar School, Ruthin, and St. Edward's College, the last match being a particularly good game in which the Colts well and truly avenged the defeat of last term. Matches have still to be played against Park High School, Wirral Grammar School, and St. George's, Wallasey.

The members of the team have played well together, and have proved a happy and forceful combination. There have been two captains, one for each term, and in Howard and Tommy Jones the team has two players of whom it can be proud.

L.T.M.

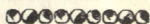
BANTAMS XV.

Results to date—Easter Term:

Rock Ferry High School	A.	Won 25—3
St. Anselm's College	H.	Won 26—5
Oldershaw G. S.	A.	Cancelled.

The Bantams have so far had a very successful term, and their improved play is reflected in the results achieved. Both matches played have been won by a substantial margin, and our victory over St. Anselm's was particularly welcome, as our narrow defeat of last term was thus handsomely avenged. The experiment of transposing Colley

FROZEN FRUITS & VEGETABLES
ICE CREAM & PURE LOLLY ICES



Wellington Creamery



22a Wellington Road,
Oxton.

TEL. BIRKENHEAD 4584

E. Bryan

JEWELLER

55a Borough Road

Near Central Station

Watches, - Sports trophies, - Clocks

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

HUBBARD & MARTIN

(1949) LIMITED



Bakers, Confectioners and Caterers.
ESTABLISHED 1886.



Registered Office and Bakery :
PILGRIM STREET, BIRKENHEAD.



Branches at:

CHARING CROSS, BIRKENHEAD
MARKET PLACE SOUTH, BIRKENHEAD.
LAIRD STREET, BIRKENHEAD.
WOODCHURCH ROAD, PRENTON.
BEBINGTON ROAD, TRANMERE.
BEDFORD ROAD, ROCK FERRY.
NEW CHESTER ROAD, ROCK FERRY.
BEBINGTON ROAD, NEW FERRY.

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

and Cundill in the scrum half and three-quarter positions has proved successful, and a further attempt has been made to strengthen the three-quarter line—weakened since the absence of Scutt—by introducing into it G. Lloyd, but he seems to be more at home in the pack, and was more frequently found among the forwards. The team has played well together this term, and it is gratifying to note that some of the individual weaknesses mentioned in the last report have to a great extent been rectified. We have high hopes of maintaining the term's unbeaten record in the matches outstanding.

* * * * *

The Rugby Club wishes to express its gratitude to the Ladies' Committee and to Mrs. Weir in particular, for the work done at the School Pavilion in providing and serving refreshments. The quantity and quality of the delicacies supplied have been exceptional, and the hospitality we have consequently been able to offer to visiting teams has done much to add to the reputation of the School.

Chess

THE Chess Club has continued to meet on Monday and Friday evenings, as well as most dinner-hours. Two particularly gratifying features have been the increasing measure of support from the intelligentsia of the Fifth Forms and the large number of enthusiastic young players.

As a result of the annual tournaments, T. A. Dodd (present champion) will meet the winner of C. W. Weir and F. W. Taylor to decide the School Championship. The Junior Championship has been won by P. Jones of 3A, who defeated A. Miller of 2A, in the final.

The Inter-House competition resulted this year in a well-deserved victory for Stitt, with Atkin second, and Westminster third.

The Inter-Form Knock-Out is still in progress. The final will be played between the Sixth Form and the winners of 5A, 4A, 3A and 2A.

The School team was unsuccessful in its bid to retain the Wright Challenge Shield. Only one match was lost, but no fewer than four were drawn, so that we shall have to be content with third or fourth position. By beating Chester City G. S., the School has entered the second round of the Cheshire Challenge Shield, and will play the winners of Wallasey G. S. and Crewe G. S.

Results of this term's matches:—

v. Holt High School	.....	Won	6	—1
v. Liverpool Collegiate	.....	Won	5½	—1½
v. Liverpool City G. S.	.....	Won	5	—3
v. Alsop H. S.	.....	Drew	3½	—3½
v. Birkenhead School	.....	Drew	3½	—3½

The outstanding individual performance has been that of T. A. Dodd, who has scored $9\frac{1}{2}$ points out of 10. Incidentally, Dodd has not lost a game for the School for two seasons. Our top board and Captain, E. Taylor, also had a good season, defeating several redoubtable opponents.

During the Easter Holidays, twenty of our members will be competing in various sections of a three-day Junior Chess Congress, to be held, under the auspices of Liverpool Chess Club, at Liverpool Collegiate School. We shall also once more be represented at the annual Wallasey Chess Congress. R.S.T.

Senior Literary and Debating Society

ALTHOUGH meetings have been publicised as usual, the number of members attending has been below that of last term. At the first meeting, which was a debate, only sixteen members were present. The motion that "This House Approves of Compulsory Sport in Schools" was proposed by A. S. Hodgson, seconded by K. W. Jones, and opposed by A. O'Hare, seconded by J. E. Green. When the four principals, the chairman, and six other speakers had expressed their views, the vote was taken, and the result was that the motion was defeated by seven votes to three.

The second meeting was another set of discussions, as last term's meeting of this form was so successful. Fifteen members were present when the Chairman suggested the first subject, which was the topical Bentley murder case. The second question, which was "Has the Society any confidence in the present government?" produced heated arguments between several members who expressed their opinion vehemently. This eagerness to emphasise opinions was, however, moderated in the last discussion, which was about the observance of Sunday as a day of rest, when the arguments gradually declined into exchanges between four members in particular, one of whom still cherishes the memory of having said so little so many times. Although the attendance was low on this occasion, it may be said that the meeting was generally successful.

The third meeting was a "What's My Line?" competition, which was organised in a similar way to the B.B.C.s. Twenty members including the teams were present when the competition opened. A Sixth Form team, which included C. W. Weir, M. Marston, B. Davies, N. A. Parry, and H. Smith, opposed a Fifth Form team, consisting of P. G. Prodger, J. E. Green, A. O'Hare, K. W. Jones and A. S. Hodgson. Such picturesque occupations as those of an osteopath, a lion tamer, and a black marketeer were presented, while the faithful portrayal of a schoolmaster produced much amusement. The result was that the Sixth Form won by six points to four. K.P.

Tennis Club

THIS year, as usual, the Tennis Club will open after Easter at the Ashville Road Courts.

Members will be able to play on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. As last season, tennis can be played until the end of September.

The membership fee will again be the very reasonable sum of 5/-. All new members will be welcome, and it is hoped that many boys from the School will support the club. Provided that a sufficiently high standard of play is reached, some junior fixtures may be arranged with local clubs.

Anyone wishing to become a member should get in touch with me.

A. S. HODGSON.

Scout Notes

SUMMER camp last year was held at a delightful site near Bala. Unfortunately, the weather in that area was the worst we have ever had to contend with. Luckily, however, the rain held off for a brief spell on the day the parents came to visit us. This was the first organised Parents' Day we have had, and two bus loads plus various car loads took advantage of the opportunity to see how little Willie was getting on.

November saw our annual Bring and Buy Sale, and, thanks to the untiring efforts of the Ladies' Committee and helpers, our Troop Headquarters Fund was the richer by some £60.

Our heartiest congratulations to skipper Don Coughtrie and Miss Mary Mathews on their engagement. The Troop are now rehearsing for a full-scale ceremonial guard of honour for May.

At the time of writing the Troop has just completed long and arduous rehearsals, culminating in a highly successful Troop show. Incidentally, it was the first Troop show in Birkenhead since the war, and our first since 1937. We owe a debt of gratitude to all the back-stage staff for the enormous amount of work they did; for without their aid the show would never have taken place. We were pleased to welcome several Old Scouts: Kenny Gregson, Denis Roddick, Andy Larsen, and Stan Davies, who were stage crew with Mr. E. Hartley, under the supervision of Andy Malcolm, senior, and also Norman Little, who acted as house manager. It is good to know that they still take an interest in troop affairs.

Coronation year promises to be a bumper year for Scouting activities. There will be many sleepy eyes, as Birkenhead Scouts greet the dawn on Bidston Hill on Coronation morning.

Once more, District honours have come to the Troop. Seniors' skipper, Joe Clarke, has been appointed District Scout Master, North Division, and spends many evenings visiting and advising other troops in the Division.

Several of our Senior Scouts are now in H.M. Forces. Geoff Cookson, who has qualified as Electrician, is on board H.M.S. "Implacable"; John Davidson is now in his second term on "Conway"; David Finney is stationed at Preston, in the R.A.F.; Malcolm Holland is enjoying a happier climate on "Clan McLachlan," bound for Australia; A. S. M. John Goodwin is at present in the R.A.S.C. at Aldershot. We send our good wishes, and hope for their speedy and safe return home.

For summer camp this year, we have in mind a site in the Isle of Man, which may be reconnoitred by the Scouters over Easter.

SCOUTER.

23rd Birkenhead Scout Troop Jnr.

P.L.'s: P. CARRUTHERS, H. DAVIES, D. F. JONES, A. MALCOLM.

DURING the past term the troop has been very busy rehearsing for the troop show, called "All Aboard, 1953." Almost every night has been used for rehearsals at the Scoutmaster's house. Wednesday and Friday rehearsals were held in the School gym.

The dress rehearsal was held on the 24th February at Beechcroft, and the show was produced on February 27th and 28th.

On March 4th the troop had a delayed Christmas party which also included the celebration of the success of the show. This was held in the School dining hall. To this party the scouts invited all the people who helped to put on the show.

A. T. MALCOLM.

Old Boys' A.F.C.

WHEN writing for the last few issues of the *Visor* my mood has been somewhat pensive, owing to the fact that the Club has been passing through a rather difficult time. I am happy to say that this state of affairs now no longer exists: at least my present worries are only those normally encountered by any club secretary.

We started the current season with an increased membership and the use of two grounds, a decided improvement on the 1951-52 season.

Our first team was in the Liverpool Old Boys' League Division I., as usual, but this year we entered our second team in the 3rd Division of the same League.

Looking at the position now as the end of the season draws near, we see that the first team is comfortably situated fourth from the top of their Division, and they may be able to improve on this. A note of regret must creep in, however, when I record that although they reached the semi-final of the Senior Trophy competition, they failed to go any further, being beaten away from home by Prescott G.S.O.B. (a coincidence this, as we beat the same team in the semi-final last year).

The second team, after being beaten in their first two games of the season, have settled down, and have lost only one game since. They have headed the third division from last November, and when you read this they should be division Champions, as they have only three games to play at the time of writing. They have also reached the semi-final of the Junior Trophy competition; so we have hopes in that direction also.

I should like to bring to your notice that any boy who is interested in joining the club on leaving school will be assured of a welcome. Just call, 'phone, or write to me, J. A. Young, Hon. Sec. B.I.O.B. A.F.C., 7, Fairview Road, Oxtou, Birkenhead. Tel. Birkenhead 5254.

Old Instonians R.F.C.

THE Season now ending has not been too successful from the playing point of view; but, with the 2nd and 3rd XV's winning the majority of games, season 1953-4 should see the club back in its strong position among junior clubs on Merseyside.

A committee from the rugby club has been formed to discuss details of the amalgamation of Old Rock Ferrians with Old Instonians; an amalgamation which may be possible next season.

The name of the joint club will not be known until the title of the new school at Rock Ferry has been decided by the Education Committee.

Intending members of the club are advised that the Old Instonians Rugby Club is not finishing, and are asked to write to me for membership.

N. G. LITTLE,

8 Singleton Avenue,
Birkenhead.

Hon. Secretary.

Old Boys' Notes and News

AN interesting link with former days at the Institute was provided in a letter which arrived at the School in February from Dr. B. P. Sutherland, now living at Rossland, British Columbia. Dr. Sutherland left the Institute in 1922 for Vancouver. Here he entered the University of British Columbia, and took a degree in chemical engineering with first-class honours. Next he proceeded to the famous McGill University of Montreal for post-graduate research, gaining his M.Sc. in 1926 and his Doctor's degree in philosophy in 1928. He is now on the staff of the Consolidated Mining Company, and is also the chairman of its research board. A collection of his papers and pamphlets on scientific subjects covers a wide field. We welcome this further evidence of the success of an Old Boy who still retains a warm regard for the School and its teaching.

University Letter

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NORTH WALES,
BANGOR.

To the Editor of the "Visor."

Dear Sir,

First of all, let me make it quite clear that I do not intend to make this letter a sales-talk for Bangor at the expense of other Universities (whose names escape me for the moment-). Neither am I going to tell you that University life is all gaiety, all work, all free time, all examinations, all drunkenness and suicide, or all anything else. Furthermore, I decline absolutely to discuss the advantages of coffee in Union compared with coffee in that well-known but distant Birkenhead Milk Bar. What, you would perhaps ask, am I going to write about then? And there you would be putting your finger on the very hub of the matter; for the subjects which I have just cast aside are the backbone, the core, the heart itself, of the University Letter. All I can do is to point out some of the difficulties that face the Fresher at Bangor.

When he comes to decide what course he is going to follow, the Freshman is confronted by a considerable problem. What, he asks himself, are the courses which are described as F₁, H₂, accessory, auxiliary, and so on? He eventually discovers that this is a playful trick on the part of the College authorities, because it is impossible for him to find out what these terms mean until he understands the system used, and he cannot understand the system until he knows the meaning of the terms. He therefore has to be content to remain in ignorance.

There is also the question of academic dress, since he is anxious to know whether or not gowns are being worn off-the-shoulder this year. No sooner has he found the answer to this than he realises that school-boys have a most perverted sense of humour. He remembers that when he was so high he used to be greatly amused if he saw a master tear his gown on a desk, or a hand-rail, or some other such projection. (Indeed, he was not above helping to bring this about). It is only when he sees a large hole appear in his own beautiful garment—which considerably reduced his maintenance grant—that he understands just how unfunny it is.

Finally, one of the biggest difficulties to be overcome by the non-Welsh Fresher is that of language. When someone says "hwyl fawr!" to him, as frequently happens, he does not know whether to say "Yes, isn't it?" or to give the speaker a sharp kick on the shin, until he learns that this insulting-sounding expression loosely translated, means something like "all the best!" But, in fact, life at Bangor is very agreeable, and I do not hesitate to recommend it to anyone who is at present sending off the usual batch of applications for admission to the various Universities. Hwyl fawr!

Yours faithfully,

KEITH O. GORE.

CHINA, EARTHENWARE, CHANDLERY
and HARDWARE

L. H. CHRISTIAN
Garden and Electrical Accessories

IRONMONGERY, PAINTS AND DISTEMPERS

778 BOROUGH ROAD,
PRENTON :: BIRKENHEAD

Telephone: Birkenhead 4391

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

A. Eaglesome

GENTLEMEN'S HAIRDRESSER

Est. 1914

372, Borough Road,
Birkenhead.

Your recommendation esteemed a favour.

Weddings
Cremations

Qualified
Embalmers

Modern
Equipment

Private
Chapel

Telephones { Birkenhead 2323
 { Upton 1714

Taylor's Funeral
Services

146 CONWAY STREET,
BIRKENHEAD.

Presented by
J. A. Taylor & Sons

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

A. BAKER

FURS, COSTUMES, MILLINERY, GOWNS

"Corsonia" Coats & Suits Made to Measure.



744/6 Borough Road :: Prenton

Tel. BIRKENHEAD 2101.

RADIO HOSPITAL (BIRKENHEAD)

JAMES D. BURGE

RADIO

T.V.

&

**ELECTRICAL
REPAIRS,**

CONVERSIONS

&

INSTALLATIONS,

**80 LAIRD STREET,
BIRKENHEAD**

Phone: BIRkenhead 5480

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

Racing Swim Trunks

Swimfins

Swim Goggles

Tennis Rackets

Cricket Bats



Sports clothing and Footwear

Griffin
and
Evans

44 Grange Road West,
Birkenhead.

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

JAMES McKENZIE LTD.

Wirral's Photographic Centre

27-29 Grange Road West,

BIRKENHEAD

Phone: BIRKENHEAD 4833 (5 lines).

THE NEWEST
CAMERAS
ENLARGERS,
ACCESSORIES,

We have them in Stock

Sound on Film Projectors

Silent Projectors

Film Strip Projectors

Epidiascopes

Screens

Cine Spares

Chemicals

Measures

Thermometers

Tanks

Albums and Mounts

Exposure Meters.

AND

EVERYTHING FOR YOUR DARK ROOM

SPECIAL DEVELOPING and

PRINTING SERVICE.

And Branches at—

**98 MARKET STREET,
HOYLAKES,**

Telephone: Hoylake 3559

**86 NEW CHESTER ROAD,
NEW FERRY,**

Telephone: Rock Ferry 2369

**2d WHITBY ROAD
ELLESMERE PORT,**

Telephone: Ellesmere Port 292