

THE VISOR



MAGAZINE OF
BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE

EASTER 1954.

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1st XV. 1953-54.



T. A. Dodd, G. A. Haggerty, M. Marston, R. Lindop, I. Mairs, I. A. A. Robb,
H. S. Jones, A. G. Roberts, N. N. Jones, A. S. Hodgson (Capt.), D. M. Mathieson, K. W. Jones, T. R. Jones,
B. A. Lloyd, J. G. Smith. (Photo by Cull)



School Calendar

Spring Term began	January 11th.
Half-term holiday	February 22nd and 23rd.
Speech Day	March 26th.
Spring Term ends	April 14th.
Summer Term begins	April 29th.
Half-term holiday	June 7th and 8th.
Summer Term ends	July 23rd.
Autumn Term begins	September 6th.

Editorial

THESE reflections, written during an eagerly expected week-end in late February, afforded the opportunity, which all wise men must take sooner or later, to look back over distance covered and to estimate the leagues ahead. This half-term holiday might be better styled the half-way house of the School year. Behind us stretch the early stages of the journey, the first testing of the pull required. Behind us too already are the bulk of the football fixtures as well as that trial of wind and limb, the annual cross country race. The mild weather which tempered our return to School in the New Year gave place to grim winter during the last week in January. Despite a heavy snowfall, well nigh impassable roads, marooned 'buses, and freezing temperatures, most of us contrived to reach the fount of learning fairly punctually each morning during this visitation, and showed the usual keen interest in snow in all its phases. For three weeks we were creatures of red noses and rubber-encased extremities. So we reached our brief breathing-space at the turn of the academic year, and, appropriately enough, at that time some of our number spent an afternoon watching the screen version of "Great Expectations." Perhaps too, like Pip, we may find the value of what lies in store for us coming from the least expected sources. For the senior forms at least the shadow of examination fell across the resumed path in March.

Owing to a late Easter the General Certificate will invade the Summer term early this year, too early by far. It is high time this grim festival were fixed at a time reasonable to candidates and Staff alike, and abandoned its present tendency to behave like an irresponsible comet rushing forward to destroy us at an ever-increasing and unseasonable velocity.

But it is a poor heart which never rejoices. We have Spring and Summer to which we can look forward. Even the names which figure on the sinister pink and green sheets manage to find their way also into cricket scoring books or hear themselves hailed across tennis courts. So with more than half our year behind us comes the Spring Term *Visor* to record the doings of present and past members of the School and to express—as what can do so well as our own magazine?—satisfaction in our past endeavours as well as hope and courage for the future.

Salvete

Kellett, C. V.; Kellett, G. L.

Valete

CHRISTMAS TERM.

6S.: Carroll, R.

5A.: Brown, M. H.; Hughes, H. R.

5B.: Beaumont, A. L.; Blythe, D. T.

4B.: Smallwood, J. A.; Steen, J. C.

EASTER TERM.

5A.: Wilkinson, N. J.

5B.: Bell, B. J.; Dennis, M. T.; Jones, D. F.

Staff Notes

THE change we have to record in this number concerns the department of Physical Education and Games. Mr. Davies left us at Christmas to take up an appointment at the new Wrexham Technical College, where we wish him every success. He has been succeeded by Mr. Robins, who joined the staff at the beginning of this term. Although requiring no introduction to followers of Rugby, by virtue of his distinguished record in the game, we recall Mr. Robins's international honours (he has been capped for Wales eleven times); his membership of the British Isles Rugby Union Touring Team which took him to Australia and New Zealand in 1950; and his inclusion in the Barbarians Team in the seasons 1951, 2, and 3. We extend a very hearty welcome to Mr. Robins, with every confidence that under his experienced leadership the School XV. will continue to maintain its high reputation.

Annual Cross Country Run

THIS event took place on the afternoon of Friday 19th, the day ending the first half of term. The weather was wet and cold, and the going extremely heavy, so that records were not expected, especially in view of the fact that the snow and the frost of the previous few weeks had prevented any lengthy training or regular practice. In spite of all this some very good performances were achieved and some fine finishes were generously applauded, one stalwart earning special cheers for his grit in finishing the last mile barefoot—the mud had pulled off his shoes so frequently that he entrusted them to one of the stewards to avoid further loss of time. As a result of good team work Atkin once more came out on top, for the seventh year in succession, and, although we heartily congratulate them on their success, we think that it is high time some of the other Houses did something about it.

RESULTS.

Individual Placings.

House Positions.

JUNIOR.

1. G. Rimmer (Time 16m. 34s.)	Atkin	59 points.
2. P. Brown	Stitt	45 points.
3. P. L. Irwin	Westminster	40 points.
	Tate	28 points.

INTERMEDIATE.

1. T. A. Fitzgerald (Time 26m. 1.4s.)	Westminster	42 points.
2. D. L. Lee	Stitt	38 points.
3. D. J. McCann	Atkin	29 points.
	Tate	19 points.

SENIOR.

1. J. G. Williamson (Time 34m. 35s.)	Atkin	32 points.
2. D. H. Harris	Westminster	21 points.
3. T. A. Dodd	Stitt	16 points.
	Tate	11 points.

FINAL HOUSE POSITIONS.

1. Atkin	120 points.
2. Westminster	103 points.
3. Stitt	99 points.
4. Tate	58 points.

Street Games

READERS of Dickens' little known "Hard Times" (sourly condemned by Macaulay as "sullen socialism") will remember that Thomas Gradgrind always boasted that the street had been his university and the gutter his academy. In these contentions, the story later proved him a liar; for he had in fact been carefully nurtured by a devoted mother; but he serves a purpose in introducing our subject. There is a rich old saying about "getting the key of the street." Of course, it was always intended to mean expulsion from a house. Yet Chesterton, in his paradoxical way, pointed out that the phrase was two-edged, (it could mean, he said, the talisman or open sesame which threw open all the varied treasures of the street to the receptive adventurer), that it was the man indoors who was really shut out. Now there are many things which could be written about streets, their antiquity, their fame, their scenes, but we confine ourselves at the moment to the general subject of street games as they used to be played some forty years since, when a boy might boast that the street had been his stadium and the alley his arena.

In that happy or dismal epoch (according to the variety of your politics), except on the principal, tram-infested thoroughfares, you could play games with perfect security. At the time we are writing of and in the place we have in mind, a soberly-jogging horse-drawn bread or laundry van was about the only vehicle likely to intrude on road surfaces appropriated by the players. The whole maze of streets, entries, passages, yards, back lanes, and garden walls, became a sporting course; and its ramifications were imprinted on the mind, since a nimble mastery of this extensive labyrinth was essential to the survival of the pursued who had attracted the interest of citizenry or police. It was inevitable that some street-games should perilously approach and sometimes violate the boundary which separate the legal from the criminal. Occasionally, when tempted of the devil, our practices were frankly subversive of public order; but, though many absorbing reminiscences might be offered of these, our present subject is merely games, and our patrons must await (eagerly we hope) a future article on the delights of illicit door-knocking at the advanced or scholarship level, and the piecemeal demolition of distant green-houses by our star marksmen.

Given a few kindred spirits sharing a community of neighbourhood, very little equipment was needed for our sports. We had a heaven-sent piece of waste ground, due to some misunderstanding between the local speculative builder and his own inch tape, and this became our headquarters. That it was surrounded by such targets as glass fanlights and

cowl-topped chimneys added to its attraction. When the municipality opened a playground nearby, we rejected it with contempt. No despotic councillors nor vestrymen were going to relegate *us* to the tame pleasures of swing and see-saw. Our waste ground provided a field for ball games, of which 'den-ball' (i.e. rounders or baseball) remained most popular. Cricket matches with a cork ball or soccer with a 'case' ball can hardly be said to have flourished; for, like the evil-doers in the Psalms, they were quickly cut off. An inspired kick, or slam, followed by the crash of windows, and the area became as empty of schoolboys as if a wizard had removed us all to China on the instant.

We played a queer variety of leapfrog mysteriously called "Spanish"; not the endless line variety but anchored to a wall, and the jumper scored points by the distance down the swaying and groaning human chain his leap carried him. This same wall was the 'den' or base for our type of hare and hounds (known locally as 'whip' or 'fly'), which despite all our raucous swagger was merely infantile hide and seek writ large. But it was an activity which never palled, gave us, almost as much sprinting practice as a pukka track, and furnished piquant alarms when some old witch living in seclusion came abruptly upon one of the hares in her sacred coal shed. At one time, fired by a coloured plate of Waterloo in a History reader, we played a battle pursuit game where pick-a-back pairs made violent cavalry charges. To this day, the writer always dubs a certain staid adult Wellington. At tip-cat we developed skill that might have been envied by a Maori, although here again our particular 'bush' had too many glazed surfaces for uninterrupted application. 'Jacks' was a curious game played with polished stones, and there was much rivalry over the possession of superfine 'men.' These were arranged on the open palm, jerked into the air, and caught by the dexterous on the back of the hand. Mysterious seasonal cycles governed the coming and going of all these practices. Jacks might be fashionable in February, but they would be utterly banished in March as if some invisible Czar had decreed that marbles alone might obtain in his dominions. Then came fanatical running with a metal hoop, and after that tops. Sherlock Holmes could have written one of his apocryphal monographs on the numberless ways of getting a top to spin. After dark, lighted shop windows, which attracted us like moths to a candle, offered endless possibilities for guessing games with the chance of a flank attack from some merchant goaded to madness by the uproar outside his plate glass. The challenger shouted the first and last letters of a word painted somewhere on the battery of tins and

bottles in the window, his victim bellowed the word when he spotted it, and both then raced to the houses opposite and back again. Whoever touched the shop window first became challenger in his turn. This sport, carried on by perhaps six pairs of contestants, could bring ordinary commerce to a standstill. Transplanting a newsagent's boards to the next street could hardly be classed as a game, but the possibilities were infinitely richer; for the proprietor usually left his counter and came forth with the speed and fury of an exasperated dragon.

While these orthodox sports continued amongst us—the lords of creation—the girls worked through the complicated ritual of hopscotch on chalked 'beds,' or performed prodigies of skipping. The small fry (who it seemed had only just heard of Stephenson) played trains, usually finding some youngster disguised as an officer from H.M.S. Neptune to act as stationmaster, under some delusion that Britannia ruled the lines as well as the waves. These human engines puffed about (when not rowdily squabbling as to who was an express and who a mere goods) in precisely the same spirit that Ben Rogers in "Tom Sawyer"—4000 miles and sixty years away—"personated a Mississippi steamboat," and I should imagine with much the same gestures. Meanwhile, individualists 'kept school' on back steps. This required the co-operation of a few long-suffering babes, and 'the teacher' faithfully reflected the prevailing educational code by sending forth a stream of shrill abuse and by thumping and bounding her prey. Occasionally a boy (whose father was a millionaire) did hair-raising tricks on a bicycle, and another, who had converted his mother's line props into stilts, grimaced over the curtains at the occupants of front parlours until they quaked again.

To the sophisticated of to-day with money to burn and the entire output of Hollywood to sample, all this may seem very small beer indeed; but, measured by the amount of sheer fun obtained, it was richness. As Priestley said of some youthful raptures in "Delight," a King's ransom would not now purchase, for those who give a regretful shake of the head over the past, such unalloyed happiness and such unqualified felicity.

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NEWS of old Boys' achievements continues to add to the School's prestige. One of the latest distinctions to be gained by an Old Instonian was the Knighthood conferred in the New Year Honours List on Mr. H. J. Manzoni, Chief Engineer to the City of Birmingham.

* * * * *

We regret to record the death of Mr. H. Bennett last December, who was a master at the Institutè from January 1899 to July, 1929, occupying the post of Senior Modern Languages Master during the latter part of the period. Mr. Bennett had thus enjoyed nearly a quarter of a century's retirement, and his death breaks perhaps the very last link connecting the School with the previous century. Many Old Boys will recall the marked individuality and force of his character and teaching. Mr. Allison represented the School at his funeral.

* * * * *

Mr. Allison was the guest of honour at the meeting of Birkenhead Round Table on Wednesday evening, January 27th, when he gave an address on a subject on which he is an authority—the River Mersey. His talk described the vital work of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board in keeping this "dangerous wild beast of a river" in check, and in making it a useful servant for the million and a half residents on Merseyside. Whatever our calling, the economic life of this district depends on the maintenance of the Mersey as a maritime highway.

* * * * *

On the B.B.C.'s Third Programme on Friday, February 12th, a study of a famous Instonian, the poet Wilfrid Owen, was broadcast by Patric Dickinson, with Hugh Burden as the poet. A previous broadcast of this appreciation took place during last summer's holiday on August 17th. Not many schools can boast the inclusion of an Old Boy's work in the rarified atmosphere of "the Third."

* * * * *

It was recently announced in the local press that yet another distinguished Old Boy has been chosen to be the leading figure in what promises to be the town's most outstanding event of 1954. Professor Sir

Henry Cohen of Liverpool University is to open the new Technical College, now nearing completion in Borough Road, during July. Some present members of the School will recall the visit of the Queen Mother to lay the foundation stone of this enormous building some years ago, and we are proud to think that the Institute will be so signally represented at its inauguration.

* * * * *

We have received a facsimile copy of the Constitution of the Old Instonians Club in the United States of America. This reflects not only the perennial interest of all Americans in constitution-framing since 1776, but also the strong affection which links old boys, scattered over the wide world, with the School. The next time you are out for a stroll anywhere between Pittsburg and San Francisco, do not be surprised at the sign of the *Visor* hanging out. It will only be one of our New World branches. Go right in! By virtue of being a member here (at the Head Office) you are an honorary member there also, and you will be received with enthusiasm.

* * * * *

Another old Instonian, Mr. A. R. Wallace of Pine Avenue, Bebington, left for South Africa on Thursday, January 28th, to take up an insurance post at Johannesburg. This appointment will involve constant journeyings throughout the Union.

* * * * *

Not to be outdone by rival performances, such as "Music for you" or "the conductor speaks," we have begun our own evening courses in musical appreciation. The first of these illustrated talks was given by Mr. A. W. Hughes, our music master, on Beethoven Sonatas.

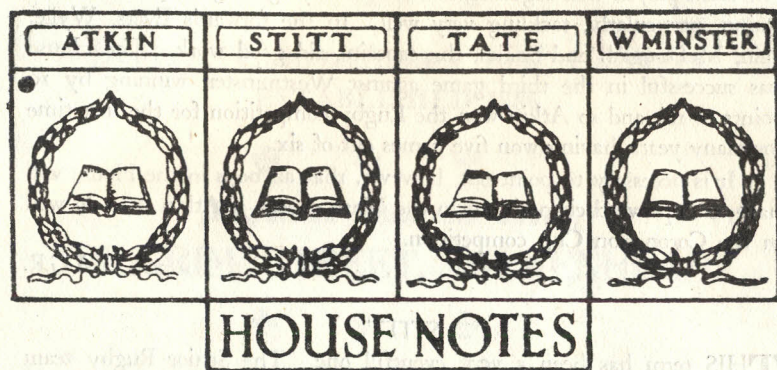
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Many Old Boys who left the School between twenty and thirty years ago will be interested in news of a former senior English Master, Mr. F. W. Jones, who left the Institute to become Headmaster of Beaumaris County School. On his retirement from this position, Mr. Jones went to Bangor University College for a theological course, and is now curate of Holy Trinity Church, Llandudno, where he carries out his duties—at a time when most men would be seeking rest—with the old thoroughness and enthusiasm which his former colleagues and pupils knew so well.

* * * * *

It says much for our progress in foreign languages that a debate, conducted entirely in French, was arranged for the sixth, fifth and fourth forms on March 16th, on the vexed question of the abolition of the death

penalty. Large groups of linguistic experts collected around the handsome poster announcing this event in the hope of detecting some mistakes in the matter of accents or agreements. This welcome and enterprising venture might lead to an evening lecture in Latin entitled "The secret history of an A form"; a German poetry-reading on "The charms of western democracy"; a scientific brains trust (in American) on "the life cycle of Senator McCarthy"; and finally a Russian talk for photographers on the production of negatives.



ATKIN.

THE first event held this term was the final Senior Rugby game against Westminster, which the House was unlucky to lose by 6 points to 3 points, the main fault being in the forward play, which was not up to the standard of which the team was capable. This meant that of the three games played Atkin had won two.

In the first table-tennis match, against Stitt, the House gave a poor display and lost by 3 games to 2. In the second match, against Tate, the team played much better and won by 5 games to nil. It kept up its standard of play to defeat Westminster by 4 games to 1 in the final match. Mention should be made of Harris and Dodd, who won all their games.

Atkin failed to do well in the Chess competition, winning only one match and finishing third.

For the sixth year in succession the House won the Cross-country runs, mainly through the good running of the juniors and seniors. In the Junior race Atkin was placed first. Special mention should be made of P. Brown of 1A and T. Jones of 2B, who finished 2nd and 7th respectively. In the Intermediate race, although the House was placed third, Lee, Dalziel and Marshall ran well to finish 2nd, 6th and 10th respect-

ively. The House was an easy victor in the Senior race, owing to the fine running of Harris, Dodd, Lutner, Thompson, B. Taylor, and K. Jones, who finished 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 13th, 16th and 17th respectively.

In the first of the Junior Rugby matches Atkin defeated Stitt by 44 points to nil, this being due mainly to the Stitt team's being under strength. Spécial mention should be made of Sykes, who gave a good display as scrum half, and, particularly, Lee, who ran very well on the wing. The second game, against Tate, was won by 15 points to 8 points. The team played well together, and several boys gave good performances, Quinn, particularly, tackling very well. In the forwards Evers, Wylie, Pain, McDougall, and Shales, the captain, did good work. The House was successful in the third game against Westminster, winning by 10 points to nil, and so Atkin won the Rugby competition for the first time for many years, having won five games out of six.

It is necessary to point out, however, that all boys in the House will have to improve their positions in the Mark sheets, if Atkin is to do well in the Coronation Cup competition.

A.G.R.

STITT.

THIS term has been a very eventful one. The Senior Rugby team played two games, losing both to Westminster, 26—12, and to Tate, 23—3. The Juniors played and lost all three games this term, and so Stitt finished last in the competition.

The Chess Championship was once more won by Stitt. They beat Atkin by 5—2, Westminster by 5—2, and Tate by 4—3. Stitt's top four boards were unbeaten, P. Jones winning all three games, Riley and Marrs winning two and drawing one, and Morgan winning one and drawing two. Boards five and six, Heath and Jones, H. S., also did very well, winning two of the three games.

The Table Tennis provided another 1st for Stitt. They beat Atkin by 3—2, Westminster 3—2, and Tate 5—0. Dean is to be especially congratulated on beating Roberts, A. G., of Atkin, who for many years had been uncrowned king of the table-tennis world.

Stitt had two of the individual winners in the annual Cross-country races this year. Rimmer (2A) and Fitzgerald (4A) won easily in the Junior and Intermediate races respectively, while in the Senior race, Heath and Walsh ran fine races to finish 4th and 5th. Stitt finished 2nd in the Junior race, 2nd in the Intermediate race, and 3rd in the Senior race. As a result, they finished 3rd with 99 points, behind Atkin 120 points, and Westminster 103 points.

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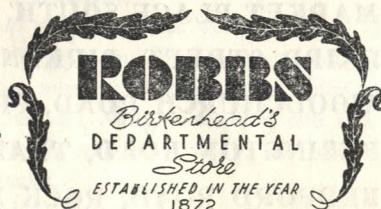
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TATE.

THE House as a whole seems to be down on its luck this term; for it was heavily beaten in the Table Tennis, Chess, and Cross-country Championships.

Fortunately in Rugby Tate were not the holders of the wooden spoon, although they were good runners-up. In the Autumn Marksheet Tate were second.

We can look forward to next term; for there were signs last year of a definite improvement in Athletics. However, one cannot help feeling that, if a little more enthusiasm was displayed both in School and out, by House members as a whole, the position of the House would be higher than it is at present.

WESTMINSTER.

THE high light of this second term was the defeating of Atkin in the Senior House Rugby matches, which meant that we had now beaten all three houses: six points, however, were not to be our reward, as the Junior House then were beaten by Atkin, beat Stitt, and could only draw with Tate. We therefore finished second in the whole competition.

Th inter-House Chess matches too were played as usual this term, and we finished second to Stitt, easily the strongest House, with four 1st team members. In the Table Tennis we did not distinguish ourselves, and finished only third. The pride of place in the Athletic activities this term must go to J. G. Williamson, who ran a well-judged Cross-country race in appalling conditions, and managed to beat Dodd, the winner of the event for the past two seasons, to finish first. If the conditions had been more favourable he would most certainly have set up a new record. The whole House, however, did its best, and, as last year, finished second to Atkin.

The House is obviously pulling its weight, and, if our success in the Autumn Marksheets is maintained this term, we shall be a step nearer the Coronation Cup.

N.N.J.

Libraria

HOW can one adequately describe the doings of the top form in the school? To assert that we work would be voicing a flagrant falsehood; yet for what other purpose do we honour these four grim walls with our presence day after day? Certainly not to enjoy ourselves. When examiners will take the sagacious advice of Mr. W*||**ms; when Parlia-

ment has abolished Herbert Fisher's cumbersome Education Acts framed in the optimistic light of the early part of this century; and when the whole system of examinations is as dead as Hastings itself, then *Libraria* will have a paean of triumph running through it. Until that great event, however, these lines will afford as much mirth to the casual reader as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle would to an American tourist. Meanwhile, there was the Cross Country Race which surely has more annual abuse showered upon its unhappy self than ever King John hurled at Pope Innocent III., or George IV. let out at the gaming table. It was run under the most inauspicious conditions for many years, and Domesday Book itself surely could not have recorded a more squalid and forbidding place than the 'Landican Bog'; and it is more than probable that Bunyan had it in mind when he portrayed the Slough of Despond. At any rate, we must congratulate 'pilgrim' Williamson on attaining the 'wicket gate' of Ingleborough Road before anyone else, in excellent time despite the adversity of the elements.

The highlight of the term has been our keen participation in the English History Stakes, run over six sides of best quality paper every Friday afternoon, in which the maestro has proved that he knows all periods of history from the palmy days of the Witan and Edgar the Atheling to the modern methods of dictatorship as demonstrated by Malenkov and Co., like the back of his famous club, and, as N*wb* puts it, "has it all at his finger tips." N*wb*'s remark that come what might we would "continue flourishing and green" was tinged with a certain humorous irony, as he himself was laid low with lumbago and had to retire for several days. But rest assured, dear reader, that none of us dare continue "flourishing and green" while such "interdicts" as the 'mock' hang on our hopes, although should someone be artful enough to improve upon Mr. W*ll**ms's bevelled ruler, we strongly urge him to contact a very private box number right away. Egg on toast and a couple of coffees will amply reward his ingenuity!

One event, however, is still anticipated with avidity—Speech Night, that relic of Victorian days when Founders' Day used to attract 'paters' from Bunter Court and Wharton Lodge to Greyfriars. Although seventy per cent. of the nebulous trappings attendant upon the event in the 1890's are now as antiquated as harmoniums, it is still an occasion when "Moderate men look Big, Sir." Members of the Staff sport their glorious robes of University days, and Jones Minor gets his top of the form prize and a handshake from an important visitor. But, above all, the prospect of a holiday makes the evening well worth while. With which optimistic note we wish you farewell until July.

W.N.B.

Form Notes

6S.

WELL, here we are again, happy as can be (groan) in spite of Mr. M*lc*lm's' dire prophecies about "a year in June, laddie."

This term has not been without its quota of crises and interesting occurrences. The first "interesting occurrence" came in the form of the Student Christian Movement Conference (of interest because it was held in the Girls' High School!), which many of the Sixth attended. Those who went to listen came away firmly convinced that there was no hope for them, and the others (no names mentioned because H*gg*rt* i. standing behind us with a cosh in his hand), were too interested in a gym display to bother to find out whether they had any hope.

Our "early Victorian house," (as Mr. H*bb*rd would have us believe) is now becoming somewhat dilapidated. Its draught excluders are rapidly disappearing (anybody wanna buy one door (broken hinges)—and several sq. ft. of glass—shapes and sizes to suit all tastes?). A demolition squad has been at work near our cycle-shed (for sale—5 tons of sandstone wall, slightly chipped, in two pieces). Even the Arts mob are turning scientific. One of them went so far as to experiment with the impact of a large block of ice on one of our casements, with disastrous and costly results.

The Sixth Form Power Club now proudly possesses 358.5 ccs. of petrol engine, of which 161.5 ccs. belong to 6S. Last week saw the foundation of the Domestic Science Club, which has since held regular toast sessions in the break, and is seriously considering broadening its sphere of activities (wanted—one scouse-pan, preferably without holes).

We must apologise to 2A for causing the Monday cascade of chemical compounds into their form room; our mad professor wanted a new exhaust pipe for his iron steed, but his experiment proved unsuccessful (to be auctioned—several feet of the chemistry lab. draināge system).

We hereby thank our maths. masters for giving us no exams. this term. There is probably no Applied Maths. exam. because we have jotted down enough little test questions to last the rest of our lives. We are probably excused the ordeals of a Pure Maths exam because we always arrive so promptly for our lessons, and work so hard during them that we just haven't enough energy for an exam.

We would advise all members of the Lower School to take care when we're about to commence one of our Pure Maths periods, lest they be trampled in the wild stampede—sometimes we are only 20 minutes late.

We would also issue a warning to all lower forms of life—watch therefore for ye know neither the day nor the hour when 6S strike. By the time this is in print the results of our efforts on April 1st will be common knowledge at certain schools.

These notes are authorised for publication by the Tranmere Watch Committee.

J.E.G.

P.H.

6A.

IN the words of the song, "Now is the hour," and the terminal report of the 6th Form is now due. In the past the 6th has had a parting of its way at this stage of its career. However, this term opened with both sections of the form residing together. Only former 6th form members will be able to envisage the ensuing chaos. The usual wars have developed into scientific "mayhem." Walls, doors, and windows have been unable to stand the shock, and, in direct opposition to Old Bill Wordsworth, "The moving accident is *certainly* our trade."

There is one record which I think we can claim. The lower 6th has no less a personage in its midst than the Captain of the Rugby XV. This scientist resides, like Jupiter, on Mount Olympus, while we pay respectful homage. It seems a pity that the autograph-hunter appears to be extinct. I can think of no more diverting spectacle than the surreptitious exchange of "3 'Uttons for an 'Odgson."

It appears to us humble artists that our friends the scientists finish morning school a trifle earlier than the rest. They appear anxious to hurry to the dining hall. This, I am assured, is not because of hunger, but because of Spring.

One more item I must list, and that is the excursions we have undertaken this year. We have conferred sagely on the Scriptures at the Girls' High School (the interest that was shown in this venture was startling), and we went to Wirral to see a film. However, when we were questioned on it afterwards, the lack of knowledge seemed unexplainable, or was it?

These few facts must suffice to show 6A still flourishes for the present—until the examinations, of course!

P.G.P.

5A.

WE commence with an article by H. Piers on

THE MERSEY TUNNEL.

The Mersey Tunnel was opened on July 18th by King George V., on the same day as the Public Library in Borough Road was opened. The

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necessity for an alternative route to Liverpool was becoming more and more pronounced, as at that time the region was becoming highly industrialized, and the ferry boats were unable to cope with the increasing traffic.

Plans for the present tunnel were under consideration in the early 1920's, but nothing materialized until a decade later. Opposition was naturally received from the Ferries Committee, who asserted that the ferry-boats could handle the traffic crossing the Mersey.

The question of constructing a transporter bridge, similar to the one at Runcorn, was also raised, but as there was no vacant land suitable on either side, the question had to be dropped. The only practical solution to this problem was to construct a tunnel underneath the bed of the river. It was decided that the tunnel was to open out in King's Square, Birkenhead, and by St. George's Hall in Liverpool. Two subsidiary tunnels were also built to connect with the docks, although these were of smaller cross-section than the main tunnel.

The part of the tunnel in use to-day is only half the tunnel which was originally constructed. The circular bore was divided into two halves, of which the part used nowadays is the upper section. In response to the ever-increasing amount of traffic using the route it has recently been suggested that this lower half or semi-circle should be opened. Unfortunately, at the present time there is no room for the entrance to such a tunnel on either side of the river. It seems that the present tunnel will have to suffice for a few years at least, as the opening of another would necessitate much reconstruction of the existing lay-out.

Next H. S. Jones tells of

THE GOLF BUG.

A few years ago I was convinced, as are many people, that golf was an "old man's game." However, one sunny afternoon I was persuaded to have a round. Right from the first time that I hit the ball I had caught the golf bug. Now I could see why so many people spent their leisure hours hitting a little white ball around.

One of the great advantages of golf is that it can be played alone. Admittedly there is not the same great rivalry as when two or three people play, but there is no greater satisfaction gained anywhere than seeing the ball drop into the hole with the first put.

Another great advantage is that no matter how many people may be present they can all play. This is where golf surpasses other games, such as tennis, where only an even number of people can play successfully.

There is one unfortunate thing for the schoolboy golfer: the more you play, the more you want to play. This the schoolmaster may not like.

The final contribution is from F. W. Taylor, and is entitled

WEATHERCOCKS.

A weathercock is a common sight on many buildings and church spires. But do you know why a cock is the bird associated with weather vanes? This is the answer:—

In very ancient times cockerels carved from wood were placed on tops of sacred trees. As they moved in the wind, it was thought that their motion kept away evil spirits. It was for this same reason that the cockerel originally appeared on church spires. As church spires were usually the highest buildings in towns and villages when weather vanes were introduced, they were placed there. So the cock and the vanes became associated together and have remained so to this day.

5B.

It is unfortunate that our form is next to the Staff room. This does not bother us, however, as we are a very quiet form. Mr. Thacker our form master, rules us as a dictator would his country.

The form represents the School in many spheres. Smith, Riley, Hewitt, and Burnell, have all played for the 1st XV., and Thompson, Pope, and Walsh, all play regularly for the 2nd XV. In the School Chess team the form is represented by three players: Riley, for the 1st team, and Anderson and Walsh for the 2nd team. In addition to these players, Smith, Reynolds, and Dick, play for their houses. Hewitt, Riley, Walsh, and Smith, represent their Houses in Table-tennis.

For this information we are indebted to N. Anderson. We continue with an article by J. B. Jones entitled.

A VISIT TO A FACTORY.

During the half-term holiday I had the opportunity of visiting a small engineering factory in Birkenhead. The firm specializes in the manufacture of pressure-valves, thousands of which are used in industry. I saw the whole process of manufacture, from the melting of the bronze ingots to the packing of the finished valve.

I first visited the foundry, where the bronze ingots are placed in a crucible and heated by means of a furnace, which roared like a giant bunsen. When the metal was molten, the crucible was taken from the furnace, and placed in giant forceps, which poured the metal into prepared moulds. Cores had been placed in the moulds. These cores were

made of molasses and sand, baked in an oven. They made the hole for the valve. On cooling, the rough moulds were removed, and taken to the engineering shop to be turned, drilled, sand-blasted, and fitted with hardened-steel working parts.

The valves were tested, and made to stand up to pressures greater than they would normally have to stand.

The employees look very neat in blue overalls and protective caps. I had a most interesting morning, and the visit gave a good picture of what an engineering career offers.

Finally, F. G. Heggarty gives us a brief history of

MODEL AVIATION.

Model Aviation has achieved the definite status of a branch of aeronautics. When it began as a hobby around 1910, the aeromodeller was chiefly concerned with the building of replicas of full-size aircraft. The 1914-18 War hampered progress considerably. It was not until 1930 that this hobby assumed real importance. Great progress was made until 1939. Clubs were established in nearly every country, and rules were formulated for competition flying. As previously, the war retarded facilities for flying. Since the war the model aviation clubs have grown considerably. In some cases this hobby can be turned into a job, as there are now factories in Britain concerned solely with the manufacture of replica aircraft for companies like B.O.A.C.

4A.

J. Walsh begins 4A's contributions with his article on

CONTEMPORARY BRITISH ATHLETES.

People are prone to criticise the British athlete without being aware of the disadvantages which beset the aspiring athlete. For, in America, if a youngster shows a touch of brilliance, he is awarded an athletic scholarship to a university. He is given state aid without actually being paid, and receives the highest standard of coaching possible. If America sends a team to tour Britain, the government sponsors the trip. If Britain wishes to send a team abroad, it must rely on voluntary subscriptions, and does not receive state aid.

Because of this important distinction between British and American athletes, the Britisher is not able to gain competitive experience, whereas the American can. This international experience is invaluable to an athlete, and lack of it is the fundamental reason why Britain did not do so well as expected in the 1952 Olympic Games.

In my opinion British Athletics is improving, and, considering the size of Britain relative to that of other countries, I think we have some really fine athletes. It is impossible to discuss athletics without mentioning Gordon Pirie, Britain's brightest hope for the future. Roger Bannister, Jim Peters, Chris Chataway, Gordon Disley, and Pirie, are five of the world's greatest athletes, and I think they will do their country great credit in the next Olympic Games, at Melbourne in 1956. There is nothing wrong with British athletics.

Lutner continues with his article on

A LIGHTHOUSE BUILT ON COTTON.

Leasowe Lighthouse was built on a foundation of cotton. The coast on which it stands was long a perilous region for shipping. The sandy shore was unstable and treacherous, and no structure of any kind could be erected upon it. At last, a shipwreck solved this vexing problem. In 1761 an American ship laden with a cargo of cotton from India was driven ashore in a storm and was wrecked near Leasowe. Salvaged bales of cotton were piled on the shore, and they settled on the sand. The combination of cotton, sea water, and sand turned these bales into a mass as solid as granite. The lighthouse was built upon this cotton foundation, and has endured for 190 years, in spite of the violence of the elements.

We conclude with Fitzgerald's

FORM NOTES.

The form is well represented on the rugby field; A. Jones has been an able captain of the Colts XV. The present form is now opposite the masters' room, as we have had to change form-rooms with 5B: we prefer our old room, however, because it was smaller, while this present room is too spacious. Hopner is still the brains and Walsh the brawn of the form. P. Jones plays for the School Chess Team, and A. Jones, captain of the Colts, was chosen to play for New Brighton Rugby Club. Mr. Andrews, the student Chemistry master, did not agree with half the form's going to watch the All Blacks and playing Rugby at Ruthin. The new hobbies of the form are Square Dancing and playing records of Modern Music.

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WE commence with the Form Notes by R. Clampitt:—

Our form has five representatives in the Colts XV.: Meredith, the team's prominent full-back, Cundill on one wing, Porter on the other, Evans in the second row, and Clampitt as scrum-half. There is keen competition between the top boy, Clampitt, and Williams, who is determined to get back into top position. Although we have been relieved of three boys, Steen and Smallwood, who left before Christmas, and Davies, we are still said to be unteachable.

We continue with an article by G. Evans which he calls:

A VISIT TO AN AERODROME.

Some time ago, my father and I were invited by my uncle to visit the De Havilland aerodrome near Chester. After showing our permits to enter the aerodrome, we were met by my uncle, who conducted us to various points of interest.

He first took us to the assembly shed of the "Dove," a small red and white passenger plane. Next we were taken to the assembly sheds of the "Vampire" jet-fighter, where we watched one being constructed. After this we were taken to some hangars where we examined the "Chipmunks" and "Sea-fires."

Usually, at this aerodrome, a "Comet" is to be seen, but unfortunately I was unlucky; for none appeared that day. Just before we left, however, my uncle asked me to go and watch a "Chipmunk" doing aerobatics. This I did, and later I was introduced to the pilot.

It was an exciting day, and I should like to pay another visit there some day.

Next we have an article by G. G. Williams on:—

PLANNING A YOUTH HOSTEL EXCURSION.

In planning a trip of this sort it is essential to know something about the nature of the country to be crossed. Hilly and rough country will cut down the speed of walking, and, therefore, will shorten the distance travelled. Weather is also an important factor. In windy and rainy weather, walking is slow and uncomfortable. On a mountain summit it is generally cold, and the heavy atmosphere slows one's walking pace.

It is equally necessary to wear the correct clothing. Windcheaters are good body protectors, and capes are useful in rainy weather. Wearing shorts in cold regions is a sign of foolishness, but it is to be remembered

that it is better to have wet legs than wet pants. Stout shoes are essential, preferably ones with leather soles. Waterproof rucksacks are used for carrying night-kit, pots and pans, emergency rations, and other small items.

The positions of Youth Hostels should be known as well as towns and prominent landmarks. One inch ordnance survey maps are the best for consulting there and also for finding different routes.

Inside the Youth Hostels soft shoes are worn. Sleeping bags are necessary, because the Hostel only provides blankets. Food can be bought at most Hostels, but ready cooked meals can be bought at a low price. For information about the Hostels you can write to the nearest headquarters, which will send you a small handbook containing all the information you require.

We conclude with an article by Gun Why, which he calls:

NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper, if it may be called such, was the "Octa Diurna" of Rome, which was posted publicly in the city from the time of Julius Caesar to the fall of the empire in A.D. 476. The first printed newspaper was in China A.D. 382. From 1447 small printed sheets were issued in Germany and Venice, in which the accounts of events of public interest were written and termed "Notizie Scritte." They were sold for the price of a "gazzetta," a small coin.

The first serial appeared in Antwerp in 1605, and the first daily newspaper in Frankfurt in 1615. This paper is still in existence. The first English newspaper appeared in London in 1622, and the first American newspaper was the Boston News Letter of 1704.

3A.

BUCKLAND-EVERS begins 3A's contributions with his article on

BIRD WATCHING AS A HOBBY.

The attraction of bird watching as a hobby is that it enables you to combine an interesting hobby with a healthy outdoor pastime. Membership of your local ornithological society enables you to attend the instructive lectures given at different times during the year.

If you are interested in sea-birds, you are given an ample selection of places, the two most prominent of which are the West Cornish Coast, famous for its Shags and Gannets, and St. David's Head in Pembrokeshire, one of the greatest haunts of the Lesser and Greater Black-Backed

Gulls. If, on the other hand, you particularly wish to follow the life cycle of the many species of wildfowl, you will be given all the information you require from the Severn Wildfowl Trust on the banks of the Severn, near Gloucester. If you are interested in the haunts of the birds of passage, you will have ample scope among the birds which collect, to make their journey to warmer climes, on the island of Hilbre in the Dee Estuary, Cheshire. If birds of prey are your special field of interest, you will find the Sussex Downs very interesting, with their large numbers of Peregrine Falcons swooping on every hare which chances to break cover within their sight.

All these places go to make up the many places in these island where this fascinating hobby can be pursued.

Next, Sampson tells us about the

ROVING-EYE CAMERA.

A new roving-eye camera is being developed for Britain's new, j photo-reconnaissance aircraft. It has a special moving lens. The camera is divided into two parts, one of which sweeps the ground to the left of the aircraft, while the other roves the ground to the right. A small overlap ensures that all the area is covered. The result is that instead of getting a single narrow shot of the ground, limited by the size of the lens, you receive a picture some 2 ft. 6 ins. by 9 ins. wide. Each exposure from 50,000 feet records about 50 sq. miles, and 200 exposures can be made on the large roll of film held by the camera. A great number have already been installed in the "Hawker Sea Hawk" for use with the Navy.

Finally, Cram enlightens us on

THE BEGINNING OF STAMP COLLECTING.

It is supposed that, in 1850, a Belgian Geography teacher, in order to encourage his pupils to take more interest in Geography, advised them to adorn their atlases with as many stamps as were then available. The custom spread rapidly, and soon became one of the world's most fascinating and educational hobbies.

There is a lure in the multitude of portraits, inscriptions, and colourings, which not only attract younger members, but also provides life-long interest among adults. His Majesty King George the Fifth said that stamp collecting was one of the greatest pleasures of his life. He used to be patron of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, with a collection said to be worth over a hundred thousand pounds.

WE begin 3B's form notes with R. Armstrong's account of

THE PRODUCTION OF SUGAR.

The sugar cane is a tall grass growing to a height of twelve feet in the lowlands of the tropics. The woody stalk is seen to be jointed much like a bamboo, and from the top springs a bunch of long leaves. With a hatchet or small cutlass the negroes start cutting the stalk at the base, and slicing off the leaves ready for transport to the factory. The old clumps of roots will send up new shoots, but every three years they are rooted out, and pieces of the jointed stem are laid in furrows to grow into new plants. The canes are brought to the crushing house by donkey, cart, lorry, or narrow gauge railway. The canes are tipped on a conveyor, which carries a continuous supply to the crushing machines. The cane is passed between heavy rollers, which grind it up and squeeze out the sweet juice. The juice is slowly boiled down in large vats, until it becomes thick and syrupy, and crystals of sugar form. It is then placed in drums, which turn at high speed. The syrup is thrown out through holes in the side to become molasses or treacle, and the raw sugar is left behind in the drum. When purified still further, both are ready for market. A third product is "Jamaica Rum," which is fermented from molasses.

Next, M. Williams tells us about

AMERICA'S FATHER OF GAMES.

George Wright, who died at Boston, U.S.A., in August 1937 at the age of ninety, was America's Father of Games. He is said to have originated the idea of the Davis Cup contests, and to have been among the pioneers of golf and baseball in America.

He knew nothing about golf, until one day he saw an advertisement of clubs and balls in an English newspaper. He ordered some, expecting to receive with the goods instructions how to use them. Disappointed in this, he laid the balls and clubs aside, until he chanced to meet a Scot, who explained the principles of golf to him. He then, so it is stated, laid out the first nine-hole golf course in America.

Now A. J. Dalziel writes about

THE BAT.

Did you know that scientists have taken bats, loosed them in a dark room across which had been strung many fine silk threads, and found that the bats darted about in the room without striking or breaking a thread? The bat does it all by the radar principle. In flight he emits about

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sixty supersonic squeaks a second, and these sounds hit objects and bounce back to his ears. From the time it takes the echo to return, the bat judges his way, and so flies avoiding the threads.

Finally, R. D. Jones tells us of

A VISIT TO THE PRINTERS.

One Friday night in March I had the privilege of going to the printers of the *Echo*. First we went to the room where they prepared the photos for the large printing block. The picture was photographed on a large white piece of glass. It was then taken into the dark room, where an acid was poured over it. After that it was washed, and the plate was exposed. Then it was transferred to metal, and placed on steel bars over a bath of diluted nitric acid, which ate away parts of the plate, and left very small dots. This was then covered with printers' ink and placed in the press, where it was printed as a perfect picture of the Queen Mother presenting the Derby Cup to Sir Gordon Richards.

After this we proceeded to the room where the lino-type was produced. The next room we went into was filled with teleprinters. Here news came in from all over the world; it was then sent in to the subeditors, and a papier-mâché print was made which was transferred to metal set on giant rollers, which turned out papers at about a hundred a minute.

2A.

FIRSTLY, we start off with the Form notes which were compiled by M. Quinn and M. Noel.

At the beginning of this term the form welcomed a newcomer in the person of J. F. Morgan, who was promoted from 2B. There are three players in the Bantams XV. from our form (although they have not been doing to well this year). They are Blackwell, Quinn and Moore. The Junior House matches are now being played, and, at the time of writing, Atkin had won their two games and Westminster had drawn with Tate. This year, at the Junior Chess Congress to be held in Liverpool, our form will be represented by J. F. Morgan and M. Noel. Many boys in our form have applied for French pen-friends. We enjoy one period a week with Monsieur Gacher. We must say, "Au Revoir," and leave you with the thought of the exams which are coming soon.

Our next article is by G. Duggan and is on the subject of a Television programme (We hope Television does not interfere with his homework). It is entitled:

MY FAVOURITE TELEVISION PROGRAMME.

My favourite Television programme is called "Science Review." This series is broadcast only once a month, and is more often than not the last programme in the evening. I persuaded my parents, sometimes successfully, to let me see it on the grounds that it is of great educational value. This review, as its name suggests, contains articles of interest to people of scientific curiosity. The subject matter of this programme ranges from the life cycle of the seaweed beetle to new ways of combating the common cold virus. Another edition showed how to make a new form of concrete which is lighter, cheaper, and, moreover, stronger than the normal kind. Astronomy was the subject of another edition, when some learned astronomers discussed the possibilities of space travel. But the best, in my opinion, was one related to the previous one: this contained the latest news on guided missiles and radio-controlled guns. Included in this talk were films of the newly-developed American gun which fires atomic-shells. They are still testing and improving it, and hope that it will soon be operating in the American Army.

We have also included an article by Peter Blaylock entitled:

INSIDE A BEEHIVE.

A Beehive may house as many as 50,000 to 60,000 bees or more. The hive is built up in various stages. The bottom one is where the Queen bee lays her eggs, and in the others the bees store their honey. The Queen bee is larger than the rest of the bees, and the worker bees do the job of feeding her grubs with honey and pollen. The Queen lays her eggs in wax cells made by the bees, and at the end of three weeks the young bees leave the cells. The Queen can lay between 2,000 and 3,000 eggs a day. The main food is honey, some of which they store in the lower stages for their own use, and an extra store is kept in the upper stages. This is the honey the bee-keeper takes. To repay the bees for the honey he has taken, the bee-keeper feeds them on enough sugar and syrup in early autumn to last them all the winter.

2B.

THE form submitted twenty articles for approval this term. We commence with a topical subject by R. W. Snowdon.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING AT ARROWE PARK.

On the 13th March, this year, the one and only D. A. G. Pirie, Britain's outstanding athlete, came to run at Arrowe Park. He holds the British and World record for six miles with a time of 28 mins. 19.4 secs. The race in which he took part was 27 yards short of 10 miles.

After 300 yards, Pirie took the lead, but, when running through the mud and cinders, Ken Norris overtook him and led by 50 yards. Pirie caught up on the flat, and came in 130 yards in front of Ken Norris. Pirie was so fast that he caught up with the tail-enders. Pirie was surrounded by autograph-hunters, and so, after talking to the Mayor, he put on his track suit and did a circuit of the course to "cool-off." Thus ended an exciting day for the 10,000 spectators.

N. Motley is a "train-spotter," and he enlightens us on this subject in the following article:

TRAIN SPOTTING

Often, on Manchester Victoria Station early in the morning, you can see a group of boys awaiting the arrival of trains. When one comes in, they sometimes shout, "It's a namer"; a 'namer' being a locomotive with a name as well as a number.

Not many "namers" come into this station, because nearly all go to Manchester Central. Thus, when one arrives, excitement runs through the group, and they try to see who can spot it first. The drivers often let you on the footplate to look at the controls. Occasionally they give you a ride.

The equipment needed for this hobby includes a parcel of sandwiches, a bottle of lemonade, a spotter's book, and a pen full of ink.

We conclude with a poem by D. W. Hughes entitled

SPRING AND WINTER.

At last the pleasant Spring is here,
So let us meet it with a cheer;
The days of winter chills are past,
And summer's days are coming fast.

Time for bathes and bicycle rides,
Gone are the frosty ice and slides;
No more snowballing in the street,
Or frozen ears and icy feet.

Time for the park and for the shore,
And getting sunburned more and more;
For, as I think I have said before—
Spring is here!

THERE are some very good articles from 1A, but we are sorry to say that all of them cannot be included in the *Visor*, as we have not the space. We start with an article by C. Brobyn, entitled:—

DURHAM CATHEDRAL.

Durham Cathedral stands on a hill, close to whose foot flows the River Wear. The Cathedral is of Norman and Early English architecture, and was begun in the eleventh century. Notable features are the Central Tower, the Chapel of the Nine Altars, and the Galilee Chapel. The Central Tower is two hundred and thirteen feet high. The Chapel of the Nine Altars was begun in 1242. It is very high and is a fine example of Early English style. The marble used comes from Frosterley, about twenty miles up the Wear. The best view of the wooden screens surrounding St. Cuthbert's tomb can be seen from the Nine Altars. By the Durham Light Infantry Chapel there are some very old flags and also a wonderful clock in gold and blue, which tells not only the time, but also the week and the month. On one of the entrances is a sanctuary knocker which has a hole where an arrow pierced it.

The next article is by David Roberts, whose name seems in accordance with the article he has written. It is entitled:—

THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF WALES

(EISTEDDFOD FRENHINOL CYMRŪ).

This Festival is held once a year during the first week of August. One year it is held in the North and the next in the South. It lasts six days, from Monday to Saturday. Different districts apply for the honour of staging this national event, and have to guarantee sufficient funds to cover the expense. On Monday they have the official opening by a well-known Welshman. A few brass bands and choirs also take part. Tuesday is given up to the children's competitions and the crowning of the Bard. On Wednesday the chief choral singing takes place, including singing with the harp (for which Wales is famous). Thursday is the chairing of the Bard. The crown and the oaken arm-chair are given for special Welsh poetry, which also gains an award of twenty pounds. The adjudication of the competitions done at home takes place on Friday and Saturday. The aim of this Festival is to educate and unite the Welsh people.

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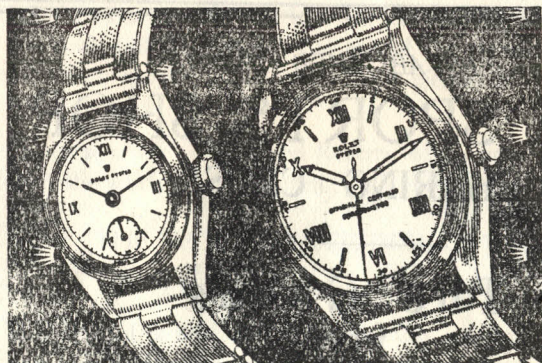
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Then, we have an article by L. Pollock which is entitled:—

MY FIRST DAY IN LONDON.

My parents and I arrived in London at two o' clock, and made our way along the platform to the tubes. We travelled to Westminster Station and alighted, going up the escalator to street level. Coming out of Westminster Station and walking to Westminster Bridge, we saw the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben. After stopping to hear Big Ben chime we went down to Westminster Pier to board a river launch. We passed many wonderful sights, among which the best are Cleopatra's Needle, Scott's ship "Discovery" (which has been to the South Pole), and (on the other side of the River) the Royal Festival Hall. Sailing along we came to the Tower of London and the famous Traitors' Gate. After passing under Tower Bridge, we saw, on both sides of the river, the London Docks. Travelling as far as Greenwich Pier where the famous observatory is situated, we came to the end of our journey. Then we made our way back to our hotel in London, feeling tired but happy, and looking forward to the rest of our stay.

Our next piece is by David Barwell (not *the* David Barwell) and is entitled:—

BATTLE OF BRITAIN DAY.

Last year I went to the R.A.F. camp at West Kirby to see the Battle of Britain Day Exhibition. My mother, my sister, and I arrived in time to see the aeroplanes flying low overhead, doing their aerobatics. We were attracted to the firing display by the sound of gunfire. There was a mock battle in which there was much activity from the rocket-firing section. Many men were lying in ditches, while corporals were throwing blank grenades at them. There was a scramble for these blanks, afterwards, for souvenirs, and I managed to obtain one, though some people obtained as many as five or six. Next, a stunt plane began doing aerobatics and skimming the roofs of the canteens. After this aerial show, and because we were feeling hungry by this time, we decided to go to one of the canteens for our tea. The day ended with the band playing regimental marches, finishing up with "God save the Queen."

18.

PIERCE contributes an article as follows under the title:—

HISTORY IS MADE.

The most unusual tales are woven around the lovely old churches of Britain. Some are interesting and have a foundation in actual fact.

Others are tradition, which drapes parts of Britain in legend. Yet, fact or fiction, all are worth recalling.

Neston church tells an interesting story. The building has seen many repairs down the years, but it is in the tower that history is written. The upper portion has been renewed at least once, but the masonry of the lower tiers is original. In the mediaeval days, the village folk used the church tower as a refuge from the Welsh raiders.

The West Kirby church of St. Bridget tells a story of an actual fight within its sacred confines. This took place almost eight hundred years ago, the attackers being a horde of Welshmen from across the Dee.

According to the brief reports written at this time, there were no fewer than one thousand two hundred men fighting at once.

It seems that the struggle was for supremacy between the men of St. Werburgh's at Chester, on the one hand, and the Abbey of Basingwerk in Flintshire on the other. The men of Chester eventually gained the day, and those Welsh men who remained unscathed hurried back across the Dee.

Next we are reminded by Stewart of the approaching

"SPRING."

Spring is here in all her glory;
Now it tells the same old story;
Happy birds go winging by
Busy building nests on high.

Little lambs will soon be playing,
Gambolling, leaping, skipping, straying.
In the fields so lush and green,
Was anything more peaceful seen?

Trees unfold their fairy leaves,
Gentle breezes play round eaves,
Woodland primroses appear;
Oh, how lovely! Spring is here!

Soon the blades of blue-bells show,
Finished now the winter's snow;
Soon a-rambling we shall be
Frisking like the lambs with glee.

We continue with a poem in the same vein by Lewis:—

SPRING FLOWERS.

My winter dreams are over,
The spring has now begun;
A crowd of golden daffodils
Are dancing in the sun.
The crocuses hold up their crowns,
The hyacinths are tall,
And there we have a little snow-drop,
Hiding under all.
The daffodils are blooming,
They scent the fresh, sweet air;
They have a yellow trumpet
And look lovely standing there.
My heart is like a skylark;
It's rising to the sun,
As all the signs of summer
Come upon me, one by one.

We conclude with an article by L. Owen which he calls:—

TIDAL WAVES.

Tidal waves might be caused by disturbances far out at sea or on land. At Lisbon in the seventeenth century there was an immense movement under the sea that produced a tidal wave sixty feet in height. This caused the death of many thousands of people.

There was a tidal wave in 1868 at Arica, on the west coast of South America. Survivors of the earthquake that caused the tidal wave told how ships had been borne inland on a towering wave, which reached as far as two miles from the coast.

In an earthquake under the sea off the northern coast of the Japanese island of Hokkaido, a great tidal wave struck the shore. Boats were hurled inland, bridges were smashed, and trains were derailed.

Last, but not least, when Krakatau, in the Sunda Strait, exploded in 1883, a portion of the island was blown away; and, where there had been a mountain, there is now water of a great depth. A tidal wave, a hundred feet in height, drowned thousands of people, smashing a harbour and flooding villages.

Rugby Club

Term's Results:—

	1st XV.	2nd XV.	Colts.	Bantams.
St. Anselm's College .A.	13—3	H. 23—0	A. 0—6	H. 0—42
Ruthin SchoolA.	5—23	—	A. 8—19	—
Wirral G. S.H.	11—0	—	H. 12—11	A. 0—40
Park H. S.A.	0—3	H. 20—18	H. 3—3	A. 0—30
Rock Ferry H.S.A.	0—9	H. 30—0	H. 22—0	H. 12—9

Season's Summary:—

	P.	W.	D.	L.
1st XV.	18	—	9	—
2nd XV.	14	—	9	—
Colts	15	—	7	—
Bantams	13	—	3	—

This has been a disappointing term. Many games were cancelled owing to the state of the grounds during the snow and frost, and consequently the teams seemed to lose both form and enthusiasm, with the exception of the 2nd XV. The standard of play in the 1st XV., especially in the forwards, was far below that of last term. The team also suffered from injuries, but this was no excuse for the lack of energy shown by those who played.

After a trial game held on our ground, A. Hodgson, Mathieson, and N. N. Jones, were chosen for the Birkenhead Schools team to play against Liverpool. Two players who have done well recently have been selected as reserves, J. Langton and H. S. Jones as well as T. R. Jones, who might have won a place had he been fit for the trial game.

It is hoped that in the remaining games, against the Old Instonians and Wade Deacon Grammar School, the teams will find their best form, as well as in the Annual Seven-a-Side Competition to be held during the Easter Holidays.

Colours have been awarded to A. Roberts and M. Marston.

Chess Club

Once more there has been a good deal of Chess played this term, of immediate interest were the inter-House matches, in which Stitt, with four first team players, came out top, winning all their games; Westminster were second, and Atkin third. In Wright Shield games, the School beat Liverpool Collège and Holt High School, but were beaten by Caldý;

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this meant that, having won five out of the eight matches, the School finished 2nd—somewhat disappointing in view of the number of experienced players in our ranks. We again entered for the Cheshire Challenge Shield, and knocked out Wirral Grammar School in the first round, but were ourselves eliminated by Calday in the second round, after an extremely hard struggle. Of the individual players, Dodd has excelled, winning five of his games, drawing five and not losing on a single occasion. We congratulate him on his selection for Cheshire against Lancashire. The second team played two games against Merchant Taylors, where they were narrowly beaten three—four; and against Calday, where they were again beaten. An innovation was tried against Calday, when two teams consisting of first form players from each school played a match. Our team received an unhappy baptism, however, and were beaten by a considerable margin. There is plenty of keenness amongst them, and with more practice they should do very well. J.F.Morgan of 2a will again be the sole competitor from the School in this Easter's Congress at Wallasey, where he will try to emulate his winning performance of last year. We are again sending a number of boys to compete in the Congress at Liverpool.

WRIGHT SHIELD RESULTS.

Alsop High School	Away	Lost	2½—4½
Liverpool Collegiate	Away	Won	4½—2½
Merchant Taylors'	Home	Lost	3 —4
Wallasey Grammar School	Away	Won	5½—1½
Liverpool Institute	Home	Won	4 —3
Liverpool College	Away	Won	5½—1½
Calday Grange Grammar School	Home	Lost	1½—5½
Holt High School	Home	Won	4 —3

Music Club.

Since he joined the Staff last term, Mr. E. W. Hughes has introduced the School to the world of music. His recorder teaching has been very successful, and many members of the Lower School owe thanks to him for turning their attention to music which would otherwise have been unknown to them. This term Mr. Hughes gave three illustrated talks to the Upper School, and he has acquired a gramophone and a large number of fine records, which we hope will form the basis of a truly magnificent collection.

Mr. Hughes intends to form a Music Club, where gramophone recitals will be held, and to which boys may bring their own records. We may therefore look forward to many pleasant times with music of all kinds.

Scout Notes

Six members of the Troop started the New Year by attempting the first part of the Venturer Badge Course, which was held at Brynbach, near Denbigh. The first test consisted of a twenty-mile hike on compass bearings across the bleak Denbigh Moors. Each scout carried about thirty pounds of food and equipment, and, in view of the extremely rough weather, our contingent put up a good show, only two failing.

The Junior Troop Patrols have enjoyed several week-ends of patrol activities. They are hoping to hold their Easter Camp at Penyfford, where the Senior Troop camped last year.

Two members of the Senior Troop cycled to Helsby Hill recently, and spent the day by thoroughly exploring it and some of the caves which honeycomb the sandstone rock.

The Summer Camp this year will be held at Knucklas, near Knighton, Radnorshire, which was visited by the Troop in 1950, when a good time was had by all. The site is situated about 15 miles north of the Black Mountains, on the England/Wales border. A West Kirby Troop which visited the site recently received a surprise visit from Col. Sir John Hunt, who lives in the vicinity.

Passing on to news of our ex-members, Geoff Cookson is now serving on the aircraft-carrier "Implacable," and is at present in Gibraltar.

Bobbie Dowler joined the R.A.F. in September, and is stationed at Gloucester.

Brian Cadman, owing to his great height, was selected to serve his two years in the Irish Guards and is stationed at Caterham. We have heard that he is continually sending home for blancos!

John Davidson is now near the end of his time on the "Conway," and was joined in September last by Andy Malcolm, who has written to say he has joined the Scout Troop there, and has spent a week-end at Llanberis.

We wish them well, and are always interested to know of their progress.

Literary and Debating Society

This term there have been two meetings of the Society. The first meeting was a debate, the motion, "A Scientific Course is the best training for the mind," being proposed by Mr. W. E. Williams and being opposed by Mr. E. W. Hughes. The motion was carried by 19 votes to 5. The second meeting was an inter-House Quiz, the result being 1. Atkin, 43 pts; 2. Stitt, Tate and Westminster; 37 pts.

P. G. P.

B. I. O. B. Association.

President: A. O. Jones, Esq., M Sc.

Chairman: C. Reg. Lockyer.

Secretary: P. P. Simpson, 4 St. Aidan's Terrace.

Treasurer: I. Macdonald.

Executive Committee: A. G. Williams, E. G. Williams, K. I. Smith,
plus two representatives from each Section (Rugby, Soccer, Dramatic)

The above Officers and Committee were elected at the Annual General Meeting when the rules of the Association were revised and amended.

It has now been decided that each Section shall undertake its own financial responsibilities, and that the Association shall, in the main, hold one function per year. By this means it is hoped that all Old Boys, whatever may be their private interests, will take the opportunity of meeting for what we hope will be a pleasant re-union. It is also hoped that each Section will support the others in all their undertakings, and thus keep together amongst Old Boys that happy spirit experienced in our beloved School.

On March 6th, 1954, the Association held the first of these functions and took the opportunity of presenting Mr. G. W. Harris, B.A., with a testimonial to show in some small measure the affection and esteem in which he was held by his former pupils. If you missed this function, any one who was present will tell you that you missed a real treat; so don't miss the next.

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I WONDER if you have opened your *Visor* at random and are now giving these words a cursory glance before you turn the pages to find your form notes, or some other item which you find more interesting, or are you one of the minority (natural at a Rugger school) who is interested in Soccer and has deliberately turned to this article?

Should you belong to the latter group then I hail you as an unknown friend, and should you be leaving the school in the near future and wish to play Soccer then we shall be pleased to welcome you to our club. Please contact me at the above address for any information that you may require.

Our Season, now alas nearing its end, has been rather a disappointing one in many ways; our hopes of Cups and Championship were shattered by injuries and by the fact that a number of our most promising players have been called for service with H.M. Forces. We should however reach the end of our fixtures with both our teams finishing close to the leaders in their divisions of the Liverpool Old Boys League.

Our first team did well in the Senior Trophy Competition by reaching the Semi-Final, when they lost by a narrow margin, and when we consider that our 2nd team (after winning the 3rd Division Championship last year) are now playing in a higher Division, we are pleased that they have done so well.

During the winter we once again held our Annual Club Dance at the Town Hall, and all who attended enjoyed a very pleasant evening; we were pleased to see so many of our old friends present.

J. A. Young, Hon. Sec.

Dramatic Section.

Chairman: A. G. Williams.

Secretary: C. Reg. Lockyer, 24 Kingswood Boulevard, Bebbington.

Treasurer: J. Clarke.

UNFORTUNATELY this section has been virtually dead for the past eighteen months, but a revival meeting was held in February, and there is now every hope of a complete recovery to a full and vigorous existence.

It has been decided to produce Priestley's "A Peaceful Inn," and already the groundwork for the production is showing distinct promise. We still, however, require new members, and anyone interested should get in touch with the Secretary, whether it be for acting or stage staff.

Please, also, note the date of production, Y.M.C.A. Hall, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 30th September, 1st, and 2nd October, 1954. This gives plenty of notice for you to book the date and support the Society by coming to the production and bringing along as many friends as possible. We must have your support if we are to be successful.

Old Instonians R. U. F. C.

15th March, 1954.

The Editor, The Visor.

Dear Sir,

I am glad to submit the following brief report of the Club's activities for publication in your next issue of your magazine.

As the season nears its close the Old Instonians can look back with some satisfaction. This year has been looked upon as a time for preliminary organisation preparatory to a steady improvement in the club's playing strength and financial position. The basis for this improvement can confidently be said to have been laid in both these directions, for the playing record has been encouraging, the playing membership has been increased, and the bank now holds a credit balance in the current account, as well as a substantial sum in the Ground Fund.

The Club's Annual General Meeting will be held on 23rd April, 1954, at 7.30 p.m., at the Prenton Hotel. Associate members are, of course, welcome at this meeting.

Best of luck to your magazine.

Yours faithfully,

K. I. SMITH.

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