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BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE

SUMMER 1955.

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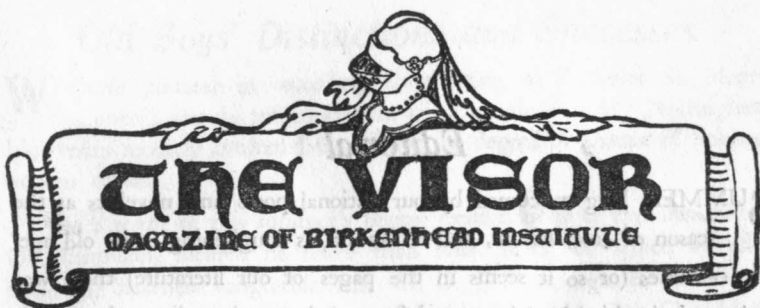
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1st XI, 1955



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School Calendar

Summer Term began	April 25th.
Half-term	May 30th and 31st.
Athletic Sports	July 2nd.
Summer Term ends	July 22nd.
Autumn Term begins	September 5th.



Editorial

SUMMER, long welcomed by our national poets and novelists as the season of ease, leisure, and relaxation, is toughening in its old age. For centuries (or so it seems in the pages of our literature) there was little to do in this island between May and August but sling a hammock in a suitable corner of the orchard, and laze the golden time away. But you will find us there no longer. The hailstorms and bitter north-easters of the merry month have driven us within. Nor is weather the worst of our trials. This is no longer the season of leaf and flower but of controversy; of municipal election (now removed from the friendly gloom of November when assault on a political adversary might pass undetected), even, this year, of General Election, which eclipsed the amateur local championships. The land rang, not with the song of the wise thrush, but with more importunate (and infinitely less musical) voices.

On top of this came the railway strike and the state of emergency, events not particularly productive of lyrical poetry. It is clear that, for the community at large, summer is no joke. But we at School have long since grown accustomed to its stern demands upon time and endurance. Our examination candidates, awaiting the apocalyptic reckoning of a many-levelled certificate, know what emergency feels like without any assistance from the Privy Council. Our more fortunate juniors are so busy going to and from the baths, undeterred by outdoor moisture, or preparing for the Sports, that their chief grievance is that summer days, contain insufficient hours. And, rising to our climax, we at the *Visor* head office are also kept tolerably well occupied; for, come wind, come weather, come the most devastating examination or the most overdue strike 'special,' we shall see that your magazine appears as usual, at once the symbol and the record of your triumph over adversity.

Old Boys' Distinctions and Successes

WE have pleasure in recording an addition to Professor Sir Henry Cohen's already impressive list of academic awards. Nottingham University recently conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

As a result of this summer's degree examinations at the universities, Old Instonians secured no fewer than four 'firsts,' on which we offer them the heartiest congratulations: D. D. J. Silcock gained the degree of B.Arch. in the Liverpool School of Architecture with First Class Honours. In the Science Faculty at Liverpool, G. M. Dodd proceeded to the B.Sc. degree with First Class Honours in Chemistry. This outstanding performance was further recognised by the award to Dodd of the Leblanc Medal. In the University of Leeds, R. E. Plimley took a First Class in Chemical Engineering in the Faculty of Technology, with the Bronze Medal of that School.

K. O. Gore, a former head prefect, gained First Class Honours in French at the University College of North Wales, Bangor. Turning to graduates, we congratulate A. A. Smith, B.A., on the award of a University Fellowship in English Literature at Liverpool.

Among other awards, G. Yeomans gained the Prize of the Royal Cambrian Academy, while E. E. L. Mitchell was placed in Class 2 Division I. and D. M. H. Williams in Class III., in the first part of the Natural Sciences Tripos at Cambridge. D. B. Hénharen, who stood first at the end of his Cadet year, has been given a permanent Commission in the R.A.F.

This has clearly been a vintage year for our Old Boys, and the School, in expressing pride in their high achievements, wishes them every success in the future.

Salvete

2A. Dutton, B.

Valete

EASTER TERM.

1B. Buckley, C. J.

4B. Humphreys, D. J.

SUMMER TERM.

4B. Jones, A. E.; McKay, G.

Staff Notes

LAST September we welcomed the arrival of Mr. Fisher, but his stay with us proved to be a short one. At the end of last term he was appointed Chemistry Master at his old school, Hawarden Grammar School, so saving him from making the long daily journey from his home to Birkenhead. Meanwhile, throughout this term, chemistry has had to be carried on by a depleted staff in the department, a deficiency which we trust will have been made good by the time the new school year opens.

Speech Day

SPEECH Day this year was March 22nd, when the Chair was taken by the Chairman of the Governors, Alderman W. E. Power, and the prizes and certificates were distributed by Professor D. R. Seaborne Davies, M.A., LL.B., Professor of Common Law and Public Orator in the University of Liverpool.

The Headmaster presented the report on the previous year's work, commenting on some outstanding successes, including two boys who had passed at ordinary level in nine subjects, one with an average mark of 78, and five boys who passed in eight subjects. At the advanced level the Headmaster mentioned specially W. N. Bryant, who won a Borough and a State scholarship on the results of the G.C.E., and the following December was awarded an Open Exhibition at St. John's College, Cambridge.

Professor Seaborne Davies then distributed the prizes, and entertained the School and the guests with a stimulating speech. The speaker had apparently studied some copies of the *Visor*, and his frequent references to the lighter side of School as therein described were much appreciated by his audience. The vote of thanks was moved by a governor, Professor F. W. Walbank, and this concluded a very pleasant evening.

PROGRAMME.

1. SCHOOL "Repton" Sir Hubert Parry.

REPORT BY THE HEADMASTER

(A. O. Jones, M.Sc.)

2. CHOIR "Song of the Jolly Roger" ... C. F. Chudleigh Candish.
3. An extract from "The Universe Around us" by Sir James Jeans.
spoken by P. G. Prodger.
4. CHOIR "Wanderthirst" Arthur Baynon.

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Evans, G. M.—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Scholarship Phys-
ics, Chemistry.

Haughton, B. A.—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Scholarship
Physics, Chemistry.

Jones, N. N.—English Literature, History, History and Apprecia-
tion of Art, Scholarship History.

Marston, M.—Physics.

Roberts, A. G.—Physics, Chemistry.

Williamson, J. G.—History, French.

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Anderson, N. W.; Andrews, A. E.; Burnell, G.; Carruthers, P. W.;
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Longton, W. J.; Macdonald, A. G.; Moran, A.; McCall, I.; Nay-
bour, R. D.; Peers, H. W.; Peterson, M. N.; Pope, J. H.; Potter,
D.; Pritchard, J. H.; Prodger, P. G.; Reed, G. A.; Reynolds, T.;
Riley, B. A.; Rimmer, P.; Robb, I. A. A.; Shearer, R. D.; Taylor,
B.; Taylor, F. W.; Taylor, J. O.; Thompson, R. G.; Walsh, B. A.;
Whittington, B.; Wilkinson, H.; Wilkinson, N. J.

INTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS—

Tate—Bryant, W. N.; Green, J. E.; Heath, P.; Marrs, I.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS—

State Scholarship—Bryant, W. N.

Birkenhead County Borough Scholarship—Bryant, W. N.

Open Exhibition (£40), to St. John's College, Cambridge—

Bryant, W. N.

Birkenhead County Borough Scholarship—Haughton, B. A.

PRIZE LIST 1953-54

- Form 1B—1st, Kellett, G. L.; 2nd, Skinner, A.; 3rd, Miller, D. M.
 Form 1A—1st, Barwell, D.; 2nd, Ward, K.; 3rd, Bather, P. A.
 Form 2B—1st, Jones, A.; 2nd, Dixon, R. A.
 Form 2A—1st, Williams, C.; 2nd, McTear, G.; 3rd, Blaylock, P. A.
 Form 3B—1st, Gray, K. L.; 2nd, Beswick, B.
 Form 3A—1st, Salmon, R.F.; 2nd, Baxter, J.S.; 3rd, McDougall, H.A.
 Form 4B—1st, Clappitt, R.; 2nd, Williams, G. G.; 3rd, Wood, J. M.
 Form 4A—1st, Hopner, K. R.; 2nd, Kellett, C. V.; 3rd, Walsh, T. J.
 Form 5B—1st, McCall, I.; 2nd, Dick, L.; 3rd, Jones, J. B.
 Form 5A—1st, Peers, H. W.; 2nd, Peterson, M. N.; 3rd, Reed, G. A.
 Form 6—English, Prodger, P. G.; History, Phipps, J.; Languages, Lindop, R.; Mathematics, Green, J. E.; Science, Heath, P.

SPECIAL PRIZES—

- Connacher Memorial Prize for English—Bryant, W. N.
 Solly Memorial Prize for History—Bryant, W. N.
 The George Holt Prizes—Science, Haughton, B. A.; Mathematics, Evans, G. M.; Languages, Williamson, J. G.
 The Forshaw Memorial Prize for Art—Jones, N. N.
 Special Prize for Chemistry—Haughton, B. A.
 Special Prize for Physics—Haughton, B. A.
 Special Prize for Biology—Marston, M.
 Old Boys' Memorial Prize—Hodgson, A. S.
 Headmaster's Prize—Marston, M.

SPORTS—

- Chess Champion—Marrs, I. (Senior); Haughton, D. J. (Junior).
 Victor Ludorum—Jones, N. N. (Senior); Wylie, D. W. M. (Junior).
 Silver Cup for Games—Mathieson, D. M. (Senior); Fitzgerald, T. A. (Junior).
 House Trophies—Athletics, Atkin; Cricket, Stitt; Chess, Stitt; Cross Country, Senior, Atkin; Inter., Westminster; Junior, Atkin.
 Senior Champion, Williamson, J. G.; Inter. Champion, Fitzgerald, T. A.; Junior Champion, Rimmer, G.
 His Majesty King George VI. Coronation Cup, Westminster (Champion House for the year).
 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Coronation Cup for Rugby Football, Atkin.

SUCCESES AT UNIVERSITIES.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE—

- Natural Science Tripos, Preliminary Examinations—Mitchell, E.E.L.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM—

Faculty of Science—

- Degree of B.Sc. (Engineering), 1st Year Exam.—Hodgson, T. S.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM—

Faculty of Arts—

- Degree of B.A., 2nd Year Examination—Citrine, T. G.

Faculty of Science—

- Degree of B.Sc. (Mechanical Engineering)—Tector, G. A.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH—

Faculty of Medicine—

Degree of M.B., Ch.B., 3rd Examination, Part 2—Ledsome, J. R.

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Faculty of Science—

Degree of B.Sc. with Honours, Chemical Engineering, 3rd Exam.
Plimley, R. E.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL—

Faculty of Arts—

Degree of M.C.D.—Thomas, H. D.

Degree of B.A. (Special Studies in English)—

Part 2 with Honours. Class II. Div. 1—Macdonald, R. F.

Part 2 with Honours. Class II. Div. I.—Smith, A. A.

Part 1 with Honours—Gleave, J.

First Year Examination—Davies, B.

First Year Examination—Jordan, J. E.

First Year Examination—Parry, K.

Degree of B.Comm. 1st Year Examination—Weir, C. W.

School of Architecture—

Degree of B.Arch.—Binyon, R.

Degree of B.Arch. 4th Year Examination—Silcock, D. D. J.

Degree of B.Arch. 3rd Year Examination—Stewart, J. H.

Faculty of Science—

Degree of B.Sc.—Brown, D. R.

Degree of B.Sc. Final Examination, Part 2—Dodd, G. M.

Degree of B.Sc. Final Examination, Part 1—Morris, J. R.

Degree of B.Sc. 1st Year Examination—Turner, R.

Faculty of Medicine—

Degree of M.B., Ch.B.—Danger, G. W.

School of Dental Surgery—

Licence in Dental Surgery, 3rd Exam. Part 2—Turner, H. M.

Licence in Dental Surgery, 1st Examination—Smith, H.

Faculty of Law—

Degree of LL.B. 1st Year Examination—Chambers, D.

Degree of LL.B. 1st Year Examination—Owen, R. B.

Faculty of Engineering—

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In Naval Architecture—Clays, A.

In Structural Engineering, Inter. Examination—Ratcliffe, C. J.

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Final Examination. Part I.—Macdonald, I. S.

The Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology—

Intermediate Examination—Boynton, A. R.

The Institute of Mining Engineering—

Membership (M.I.Min.E.)—Horne, K. J., B.Sc.

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APPOINTMENT AND AWARDS.

Professor Sir Henry Cohen, M.D., LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., F.S.A., J.P.—Degree of LL.D. (Honoris causa), University of Wales.

Ivor Bowen, M.Sc.—Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G.), as Principal Director of Equipment Research and Development, Ministry of Supply.

C. D. Henry, L.D.S.—Dental Registrar, Guy's Hospital, London.

C. R. Lawless—Borough Surveyor, Bodmin.

W. H. Marsh—Labour Attache, British Embassy, Tel Aviv.

B. H. P. Molyneux—Technical State Scholarship.

A. R. Mountfield—Vickers Armstrong Scholarship in Naval Architecture; Technical State Scholarship.

M. B. Perry—Post Graduate Research Scholarship, Bristol University; Post Doctorate Scholarship for residence at Queen's University, Ontario, Canada.

A. A. Smith—Post Graduate Research Studentship in English Literature, University of Liverpool.

J. G. Stott—Principal Officer, Board of Trade.

R. J. Davidson—Mercantile Marine Association Award for Highest Proficiency, H.M.S. Conway.

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Wilfred Owen and War Poetry

IN recent years the *Visor* has contained many references to Wilfred Owen. The Diamond Jubilee number in 1949 for instance showed pride in being able to include Owen's name as one of the School's most distinguished Old Boys. But while his celebrity as a poet of the first World War and in particular his years as a pupil at the Institute have been recorded in our pages, signs are not now lacking that scholars are coming to regard him as a literary figure of the first magnitude in his own field. It seems clear that Owen's posthumous reputation is increasing and his old School is anxious to further this recognition. From this place have gone forth over the last sixty years a distinguished stream: professors, civil servants, engineers and administrators, many of whom have been honoured by the Sovereign. Of this company, Wilfred Owen may well emerge as the brightest ornament. It is fitting and even urgent that these achievements of Old Instonians should be freshly remembered at a time when change obscures the importance of the School which nurtured them.

Owen is the measure of what the 1914-1918 War demanded in spiritual sacrifice. If his output, measured say against the voluminous works of Victorian poets, seems slender (and by no means *all* his work has yet been printed), this is due to the harshness of events and not to the exhaustion of his genius. Had all the writers survived the war which first evoked their reflections both in prose and poetry, what a renaissance this land would have seen in the twenties! But when we look at Owen's name on the memorial which we pass in the School corridor a score of times a day, when we remember that he was killed at Ors on November 4, 1918, only one short week before the Armistice which brought over four years' fighting to a halt, we may begin to understand the true cost of that war. Yet as one of Owen's brother poets said, "age has not wearied nor the years condemn'd" those fallen. In Owen's case, though fruition and harvest were brief, they were imperishable.

Such thoughts come to the writer after perusing the Spring Number of the "Library Chronicle of the University of Texas," which describes the formation there of a War Poetry Collection, likely outside a similar one made by the Birmingham Corporation Libraries Committee, to become unrivalled in scope and completeness. The collection is being made with three objects; firstly as a memorial to the writers who were killed in the two world wars; secondly as a body of documents expressing the reaction of men of genius to war as policy, and lastly as a great chapter in twentieth century literature itself. The significant thing is that while

this department of the Rare Books Collection at Texas Library will contain all available material from such illustrious authors as Rupert Brooke, R. Nicholls, Siegfried Sassoon, E. Blunden, Robert Graves, Sir Osbert Sitwell, R. Service, and Laurence Binyon (to mention only a few from the two thousand volumes of war poetry published in England alone since 1914), Owen's stature is estimated by a supreme gesture. It will be by *his* name that the collection will be known to posterity; "the Wilfred Owen War Poetry Collection"; for as the bulletin says, "he was the foremost single spokesman on war."

Since 1953, the Texas Librarian has been making assiduous research for Oweniana. The poet's brother, Mr. Harold Owen, has almost completed a monumental biography, but meanwhile the American Library has acquired microfilm reproductions of two folios of the poet's manuscripts in the British Museum, running to three hundred pages containing many unpublished poems, not solely on the first war. Then there are many unpublished letters, copies of the ten editions or reprints, both English and American, of his works at present accessible; a microfilm of Craiglockhart War Hospital Magazine which Owen edited in 1917; thirteen photostats covering eight manuscript poems sent by Owen to Sir Osbert Sitwell; the Preface which Owen was working on at the time of his death as "a fully developed, cogent and highly expressive poetic argument against war"; the War Office citation accompanying the award of his Military Cross (October 1, 1918) "for conspicuous gallantry (at Fonsomme) when he assumed charge, on his company commander becoming a casualty, and personally manipulated a captured German machine gun from an isolated position"; and lastly—and of outstanding interest to us here—a form photograph showing Wilfred Owen and his class mates at Birkenhead Institute.

We should be proud that scholars in a great university four thousand miles away are thus determined to appraise the work and significance of an old pupil of this School, for while his reputation grows it is certain that our name cannot be destroyed. There may still be, among an older generation in Birkenhead, those who remember the poet or his associations, and any information, however apparently superficial or desultory, would be welcomed by the *Visor* for transmission to the Texas archives, so that one day Owen's portrait may be complete as it is possible to get it. For the information here recorded we are indebted to Mr. Joseph Cohen, author of the article quoted from the "Texas University Library Chronicle," to Mr. Fréd. W. Venables of Gorsefield Road to whom the bulletin was sent, and to Mr. Allison for his usual fidelity and enthusiasm in reporting on any material concerned with the history of Birkenhead Institute.

School Excursion

DURING the summer holidays a party from the school is to visit Switzerland. In preparation passports have been obtained, English money has been changed into foreign currency and seat reservations have been made.

The boys are due to leave Lime Street Station, Liverpool, for London, by the 8-10 a.m. train on August 23rd, and to leave Victoria Station, London, at 4 p.m. After passing through the Customs at the port they will embark on the channel steamer, sighting the coast of France some hours later. The journey then will be by train overnight through France to Basle, where breakfast will be served. Another train will take them to their final destination, Agnurro on Lake Lugano.

The party is to stay at the Ferienheim (Holiday Home) which, being only a few yards from the lake, provides excellent facilities for bathing.

Several excursions will be arranged, including visits to Italy. One day the boys will ascend Monte San Salvatore (3,002 feet) by funicular and later on make a steamboat tour of Lake Lugano. Another day a motor-coach trip will be made to Menaggio and Como.

The party is due to return to England on September 3rd, arriving in Liverpool at 9-50 p.m.

Seven Years

ANOTHER Summer Term draws to its close, another generation of Fifth and Sixth Forms leaves the Institute. These lines may well be the last of the present writer's to appear in the pages of the *Visor*; so it is time to survey the seven years which we, the Second Year Advanced, have spent here. We entered the School about three years after the end of the War, and the first *Visor* we bought contained the following sentences in its *Libraria*. "The Library has in the last few months taken on a more sinister air. Gone are the gay sports coats of the war years, and there is a re-appearance in profusion of the black School blazer, slightly reminiscent of the S.S. Guards of our late foes." To us, the War years seem far away and incredible. We read of the Oswestry evacuation, the bicycle shed's transformation into an air raid shelter, and the Staff's fire-watching duty. One master extinguished an incendiary bomb, which fell in the gym. The *Visor* reappeared in 1944, and it is interesting to study these old copies. In them are such articles

as "At School in a N.W. Port, 1939—1945," and "Palestine: Christmas 1944." In their *Varia* we may read "Apart from broken windows and an incendiary bomb in the Gym. in March 1941, the School escaped damage during the blitz. Over a long period we were compelled to use the shelters during alerts, and both Staff and boys helped the war effort by acting as Wardens, Home Guards, Fire-Watchers, and A.R.P. Messengers," or "Our Thanksgiving Service for V.J. was . . . followed by an enjoyable concert to which both Staff and boys contributed." This verse also appeared:

"The *Ark Royal* lies under the ocean;
The *Bismarck* lies under the sea;
Old Hitler is in a commotion,
Saying 'Bring back my *Bismarck* to me.'"

Those War ties are now legendary, because a very few years constitute a generation in the School, but the importance of these is obvious when a First Former is compared with the "finished product" in the Sixth. Boys come and go, and changes are made, but there remain little incidents and traditions, which, like the pleasant times we enjoy with our own friends, or the atmosphere of last two periods on a Friday afternoon, remain unrecorded in the *Visor*.

Near Christmas we are working with the lights on by four o'clock. Rain may be falling on the glass roof over the red-tiled corridor, and we emerge into a Birkenhead of brightly-lit shops, and street-lamps reflected in the wet roads. When we were in the lower forms, informal Christmas parties, lasting well on into the evening, not the now customary concerts, were held, and we remember the winter outside the dark gym windows, and masters and boys grouped round the piano.

"The School will assemble in Brandon Street at ten minutes to seven." We soon cease to notice Shakespeare and Milton, and become less overawed by the masters' hoods, and the baroque gilding of the nineteenth century civic magnificence, and we grow used to the familiar bells in the tower chiming through the speeches and interrupting the singing in the wrong key. When we were in the lower forms, the guest's address preceded the "distribution of prizes and certificates," and the evening worked up to a climax of frenzied Coronation Cup cheering.

But days in the lower forms passed and one summer term we encountered J.M.B., G.C.E., O. Level. One day, when the incomparable view from the staffroom window shimmered in a heat haze under a cloudless sky, and every window in the School was open we sat in rows in the gym, the noisy passage of every 51 up Whetstone

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Lane seeming an unpardonable intrusion on the summer stillness and our own troubled thoughts! But summer is a happy time; after school "the dancing sunbeams in the corridor are at last perceived to have been mere fugitives from legions of their allies awaiting our commands outside. Nearly half a summer day of freedom (or so it seems) is still ours."

"Birkenhead Institute, party A," releases us from the dim vastness of the Philharmonic Hall to the dusty dryness of a Liverpool afternoon. There are more familiar phrases. "Report to the compound, at least three events before that in which you are taking part." The Sports Day activities of the present writer, who is no athlete, have been limited. He has helped to load the lorry taking the benches and stools up to Ingleborough Road; he has sold programmes, and in recent years he has conveyed the results from the winning post to the loud-speaker van, and fed them, in the correct order, to the pavilion. The Field seems to look its best on Sports Day, when as on Speech Day we see familiar objects and people in unusual settings or circumstances. The atmosphere of novelty and gaiety is even apparent in the alleyway of little brothers, ice cream, and pop bottles between the spectators and the Ingleborough Road railings.

So another Summer Term draws to its close in a day highly charged with tension and emotion. An extended break and the arrival of the *Visors* are followed by the appearance of Old Boys in the entrance hall, and the day ends with final farewells. First Formers! Remember how many dismissal services have been held in the gym—the room of parties and examinations, where the Thanksgiving Service was held, and where the incendiary bomb fell, before you entered this world and when our proud Fourth Formers were very little boys indeed. Summer 1955 will soon be another old *Visor*, and while we sing:

"Let thy father-hand be shielding

All who here shall meet no more,"

let us all remember that here there is something more than "a grammar school education." May we always look back with fond happiness on pleasant days spent at the Institute.

E.H.H.



SPECULATION as to the effect of a railway strike originally fixed for May 1st on the School's musical education would have puzzled those who fail to appreciate the connection between the normal working of the Mersey Railway and our arrival at the Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool. With a due sense of our importance the Ministry of Labour happily persuaded motormen to continue to function, so that our attendance at the concert on May 4th took place as arranged.

* * *





The appearance of a large expanse of water in the School yard early this term provided a variety of diversion and some interesting sidelights on character. Scientific observers wondered whether it might be the first manifestation of a new tidal creek; the commercially-minded considered the possibility of hiring out boats by the hour; the anti-social merely splashed their neighbours. But all succumbed to the fascinations of the pump operated by two jolly watermen, providing a scene with the fine flavour of the aftermath of crime.

* * *

Every schoolboy (or at least he who takes history in the General Certificate) knows that the Chartists vainly demanded annual general elections. This proposal scarcely recommends itself to those who attend schools which are not used as polling stations; for even the five-yearly festival of democracy fails to provide them with a day's extra holiday. Though this is an era of educational equality, it is quite manifest that some schools are "more equal than others" in this respect.

Stars Out of their Courses

THE recent regrettable affair outside the Hotel Stupendous, Mayfair, when the Professor of Pure Mathematics at Coxbridge had his coat torn off his back by a stampeding herd of teen-age T.V. fans, will cause the thoughtful to ponder on yet one more queer manifestation of this stirring age. Horace Pythagoras Foot had been a prodigy at his public school, where his mathematical ability had frequently assisted the domestic bursar in equating the terminal bills with the prevailing price index in North Wilts. Thence 'the Python' (as he was known to his cronies) had proceeded to Duke's College, become a Fellow, a D.S.C., and what not, and finally landed snugly in the Pure Maths chair, from which he delivered lectures of monumental incomprehensibility. It was a peaceful, unchequered existence, and H.P. would probably have been at it yet but for a modern invention of which in his amiable Coxbridgian way he knew nothing. But in an evil hour, Bill Ford, the T.V. producer, invented a programme which the world since knows every Tuesday night as ever comes as "Quadratics, Surds, and Binomials." Horace as Europe's No. 1 in this line, was roped in as chairman of the new show. Bill got him up to London and a T.V. studio on the plausible pretext that King's Cross and a taxi were headed in the general direction of infinity. H.P. found himself confronted by several cameras and three rival mathematical salesmen whose names are now household words. The first jeu d'esprit (heralded by a snatch from Purcell) was to discover the value of a slowly rotating chromium X where Y represented two unknowns. The solution was arrived at with much hilarity, and the second caper—finding π to thirty decimal places was a riot. But why go over familiar ground? In three months H.P. was a national figure, had been interviewed by Dolly Maroon and had his portrait in colour on the cover of "T.V. Herald," and his name had been instantly recognised in the Court of Chancery. But while this had its agreeable side and while it so sharpened the mathematical acumen of the nation as to drive one mammoth Pools corporation into bankruptcy, it made Horace so deplorably popular (hence the Stupendous fracas) that he was eventually forced to go to earth. For some months he hid himself among invited studio audiences and so passed into obscurity. The genuine entertainers of the nation, shunned by autograph hunters at airport and stage door, meanwhile hit back. Which explains the occupation to-day by Signor Antonelli (lion tamer in Hippo-chipp's Circus) of the chair of Comparative Zoology at Coxbridge.

ATKIN	STITT	TATE	W'MINSTER
			

HOUSE NOTES

ATKIN.

Captain:—K. W. JONES.

ATKIN has not fared too well so far this year having been second in the Rugby competition and fourth in both the Easter examinations and the Chess competition. The most memorable achievement was the winning of the Cross Country runs for the seventh year in succession.

In the Cricket matches, the Seniors beat Stitt but lost to Tate and Westminster. The Juniors beat Tate, tied with Westminster, and lost to Stitt.

It remains to be seen how Atkin will finish in the Athletic Sports and Summer examinations. It is to be hoped the House will do reasonably well, thereby avoiding too lowly a position in the Coronation Cup competition.

STITT.

Captain:—I. MARRS.

AS there were no House notes in the previous edition of the *Visor*, there are rather more events than usual to report.

RUGBY.

Stitt finished third in Rugby this year. There were no Junior House matches, and after losing to Tate 24-0, and losing to Atkin 9-8, the Seniors made sure of third place by a 30-3 win against Westminster.

CHESS.

The Chess team failed miserably this year. After holding the Chess Championship for three years, Stitt could only manage third place this year. The team started with an easy win against Atkin by

TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

WHAT is the question? There are a good many questions and problems in our lives to-day; new ways of living and an ever-changing world have brought about revolutions in our thought and outlook. But we ourselves are the same; human nature has not changed since Shakespeare's days; it has not changed since the first primitive man began to reason for himself, and it never will change.

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5½ to 1½, then lost a very exciting game against Westminster 2½-4½ and finished with a shocking display against Tate which resulted in a draw 3½-3½. Tate managed to squeeze Stitt out of second place, thanks to some shady work on the part of the Tate house captain.

MARK SHEETS.

There has been only one mark sheet so far this year. Stitt were 1st equal with Westminster, both Houses scoring 25pts., Tate were 3rd with 20pts., and Atkin 4th with 18pts.

CROSS COUNTRY.

Stitt finished a very good second to Atkin this year gaining 100 points to Atkin's 110. The Juniors and Seniors both won their events, but the Intermediate put up a very poor show and could only take 3rd place. Brady 2B, was second in the Junior, Rimmer 3A was 3rd in the Intermediate, and Walsh, Pinning, and Heath, were 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively in the Senior.

CRICKET.

After reaching the heights in Cricket last year Stitt plunged down into the depths and finished 4th. The Seniors could win only once, and the Juniors fared no better.

The first Senior match was against Atkin. Stitt batted first and were all out for 27. Atkin lost 8 wickets before they finally passed this meagre total. The batting improved against Westminster, and we never seemed in danger of losing. We batted first and at the end of 20 overs had amassed 62 runs for the loss of 7 wickets. Westminster collapsed, thanks mainly to the fine fielding which accounted for 3 1st XI. batsmen, and were all out for 26. The batting again plunged to the depths against Tate, and we were all out for 21. Tate had no difficulty in passing this score, and they lost only 2 wickets in doing so.

The Juniors beat Atkin Juniors by 2 runs. The Juniors were then thrashed by Westminster who passed the Stitt total of 20 in two overs. In the final match, Stitt were beaten by Tate. Stitt therefore finished 4th in the competition.

At the time of writing these notes, the Athletic Sports are still to come and also the Summer Mark sheet.

Stitt are at the moment 3rd in the Coronation Cup, but the outlook is not quite as rosy as it was last year.

I.M.

TATE.

Captain:—J. E. GREEN.

AT the time that the last House notes went to press only one house Rugby match (in which Tate beat Stitt 24—0) had been played. Tate subsequently beat Westminster 38—3, and Atkin 17—8, thus being undefeated winners of the House Rugby competition.

Though the House Chess team was a weak one on paper, they managed to hold the formidable Westminster and Stitt sides to a draw, and beat Atkin by 4 games to 3 to finish second in the Chess competition.

In the Cross Country Tate provided the winner of both the Senior and Junior races, and several members of Tate were very well placed in these events. Nevertheless the house maintained what is now almost the tradition of finishing fourth in all three races, owing to lack of endeavour by runners who are low down the field.

In the House Cricket competition the Senior team beat Atkin by 6 runs, and passed Stitt's score with 8 wickets to spare, losing however to Westminster by the heavy margin of 26 runs. The Junior team beat Stitt, but lost to Westminster and Atkin, and so Tate were second in the Cricket competition.

Though these notes go to press before Sports Day, there is little doubt that the fate of the Cup for Athletics will have been decided before any events are run on that day. Tate will probably furnish some very good individual performances, on the day, but our chances of winning the Athletics are negligible.

Thus there remain the Mark Sheets to decide the eventual House positions in the Coronation Cup competition, and though we stand little chance of winning the cup, we could, and deserve to, escape from the fourth position to which we sank last year.

To ensure this, each member of the House must make a supreme effort in the end-of-term examinations. If this is done, the House will have no cause to be ashamed of its performance over the past year.

J.E.G.

WESTMINSTER.

Captain: D. M. MATHIESON.

SINCE the last *Visor* Westminster have progressed well on the way to winning the Coronation Cup for the second year running. During this term the two main attractions were Cricket and Sports Day. This year Westminster won the House cricket trophy when her seniors won two out of three games and lost the third, while the juniors won two and tied the third. In this, special mention must be given to three juniors who put up very good performances in all three matches, Easton, D. D. Jones, and Phipps.

However we now come to Sports Day which was humiliating for Westminster, who finished fourth. This was mainly due to lack of interest, and it shows that if a House is to succeed in winning a trophy, full interest must be given by every boy. In connection with the Sports itself, Mathieson was runner-up for Victor Ludorum, and among the juniors D. D. Jones ran well.

Therefore, up to now Westminster have been first at cricket and chess and in one mark sheet (in the latter it was a tie with Stitt), second in the cross country, and fourth in rugby and athletics. In the points, at the moment Westminster and Stitt have 18½, Atkin 18, and Tate 17½. Therefore the winning of the Coronation Cup depends on the Examinations, so Good Luck to Westminster.

As this is the last *Visor* of the year, full thanks must be given to Mr. Webb, the house master, and to his assistant house masters who showed great interest throughout the whole year.

I myself thank the boys who have shown interest in the house and house affairs, and wish good luck to next year's captain.

D.M.M.

Libraria

I AM alone. I am writing in the Library, occupying one of the two remaining chairs. Next door but one, in the Art Room, the Science people are doing an exam., and my colleagues are perhaps studying at home, and perhaps they are not. No one else is left to write our last *Libraria*, and although it has been my custom to refer to myself as "the present writer," it now seems justifiable to write what follows in the first person. It has also been the custom of the Summer Term *Libraria* to reflect the Sixth Form sadness at leaving the Institute, but elsewhere in this issue will be found my own retrospect of the last seven years, and, unequal to the task of mud-slinging, I can do nothing but record some of the term's events.

Early in the term much speculation and discussion arose from a pugilistic contest in America, and this doubtless inspired the enthusiasm of some of our members, who distributed posters and pamphlets advertising the Old Boys' fair. We were disappointed in the absence of Mr. Allan's portable radio on the 27th of May, but have been pleased with the weather, which has occasionally allowed us to study in our favourite positions on the window sills. Until the J.M.B. swept away our morning assemblies, my attempts at voluntaries never failed to amuse and amaze; for to play a voluntary is not compulsory. (That's almost as bad as the one I made about thinking a music club is the thing a conductor waves).

Tony (our advertising manager) and Ted (third person again) do not take French, and have been interested to hear the discussions relating to that subject, but on the morning of the English exam., we joined our historical friend and co-editor Phil, and retired to a corner, frenziedly muttering to ourselves the lofty sentiments of Mr. William Wordsworth. Our feelings were summed up by a yet greater William when he wrote:

"O, now, for ever
Farewell the tranquil mind! farewell content!"

The exam. room itself is admirably described by Marlowe—"Why this is h—l, nor are we out of it." But it will soon be all over, and by the time the *Visor* appears, we shall have forgotten all about work. Next term B.T. and S.J.R.J. will reign supreme here; so, on behalf of my absent colleagues, a farewell is bidden to the School and to the Library by your faithful scribe

E.H.H.

Scientia

YOU may have noticed half a page of meaningless notes following our literary effort of last term. These referred to appendices (Lit. Mob note that plural) in the original notes which were lost in printing, and thus could be understood by us only. This time, therefore, we will give such a dismal failure no chance of occurrence, and will write about easy things such as cats sitting on mats and pens of your aunts being on tables.

This term has been more interesting than usual, what with newspaper strikes, tug strikes, dock strikes, pit strikes, rail strikes, seamen's strikes, a change of P.M. (ask Mr. W*ll**ms), a General Election, and exams.

Owing to the general laziness of our form in writing form notes, one of us writing these has not been here for all his seven years hard, although he has not been where that last phrase might lead you to think. How-

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ever, we have all, at the end of our first year, made that famous remark, "2B or not 2B," from a play whose name and author we can't quite remember. We do wish the Lit. Mob would enlighten us. A few of us actually began our careers in 1B, graduating to 2A. So do not despair, 1B; there is still a ray of hope.

Then came that glorious year in 3A, with two new arrivals who are still with us. Our formroom was what is now the music room—definitely the best form-room in the school. Those were the times when Mr. Th*m*s, now a 'Spurs fan, so despaired of ever grinding "ipse" etc. into our skulls that he hurled the board duster at one of us (guess who) with such force that the chip from the wall is still missing! Lucky—or was it?—that he missed!

In 4A the letters J. M. B. still remained only as a vague outline on the horizon, which suddenly loomed terrifyingly nearer as we entered 5A. Amongst the highlights of this school year, besides exams., were our April 1st expeditions to Rock Ferry High and the Girls' Sec. To round it all off we had a River Trip, during which several most remarkable incidents occurred. Extra gory details of these events will be found in back issues of the *Visor*.

Having survived the G.C.E. exams in 5A, most of the form returned to take a Sixth form course and divided into the two branches, whose (very) varied activities have been chronicled in *Visors* during the last two years. Now that we have just survived our exams., the end of the School trail is approaching. The registration letters of Mr. Sh*w's car are a constant reminder that next term will see us either back here, at a University or having a two years' holiday at a nice little Yorkshire village called Catterick.

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new"; and for most of us, except those who feel they would like Cambridge scenery, this is the last will and testament: our last broadside at our literary-minded counterparts, our final Quixotoic tilt at all that hides smugly behind the skirts of convention, and, above all, our last despairing attempt to make a joke.

Finally, before we sign our initials for the last time at the end of these notes, we are prepared, if nobody from 5A has been seen on a Childwall-bound bus since this year's river trip, to eat our caps instead of burning them on a ceremonial pyre at the end of term.

P.H.

J.E.G.

Form Notes

VI.

LAST term's notes were written when we were "full of the joys of spring," this term's are scribbled down hastily as we prepare for our end of term exams. Some of us have still an odd subject to take at Ordinary Level, but for the rest this first year is a period of peace darkened at both ends by the threatening clouds of General Certificates. Behind us we see the Fifth Form toiling over Ordinary Level, before us are the Upper Sixth, haggard and weary, facing their advanced and scholarship papers. These gentlemen either advise us to 'start working now' or warn us off with 'wait till next year.' What *can* they mean?

Manufacturers of B.I. caps have received several orders for Out Size models of late and the price of gold braid has risen. However, it is rumoured that some of the Upper Sixth are willing to sell their caps complete with ornamentation to the highest bidders.

Most of our members have been persuaded to enter for an event on Sports Day. As runners we can be no real danger but spectators are warned not to get too close to the discus and javelin competitors. With such formidable weapons in their hands these men are dangerous.

The Annual River Trip has not received its usual support this year but there are still a few who think that the Mersey breezes cannot be so bad as the Junior School breezes after the cat has slept the night in our form room.

Let us close on a more serious note and wish the Upper Sixth the best of luck with their exam results. We hope not to see too many of them back next year! What about a spell in the Foreign Legion? There is some interesting information given in the notes of Form 4A. Applications should be sent to the Goon headquarters. B.T.

5A.

ONCE again it is time to put pen to paper in an effort to describe the varied activities of 5A. G.C.E. is now finished, and we are eagerly awaiting the results. Several members of the form are leaving at the end of this term, and those of us who are fortunate enough to take the advanced course wish them every success in the future, and hope that they will keep up the good name of the B.I.

Lythgoe, Fitzgerald, Lutner, and A. Jones are the cricketers of the form, and all have represented the 1st XI.; Grayson has played for the 2nd XI. Lutner finished second in the School Cross-Country, and T. J. Walsh was third. A team from the School was 2nd in the Town Cross-Country Championships in May, and Arthur, Fitzgerald, Walsh, and Lutner, all ran well.

The hobbies of the form include playing golf and tennis, watching T.V., collecting records, and ballroom dancing. Girvan organised a trip to Rhyl on Whit Monday, and Hodgson organised an outing to Hilbre Island. The latter trip was unfortunately cancelled owing to inclement weather, but both boys must be thanked for their labours.

I should like to conclude by thanking every master who has helped us throughout the School, and I am sure every boy of 5A will join me in this. Any success we achieve is entirely due to them.

T.J.W.

5B.

R. CLAMPITT and G. Williams contribute a general vote of thanks to the members of the Staff who piloted the form through the dangerous channels of the G.C.E. First and foremost, the form acknowledge their debt to their form-master and hope his four years of association with them have not given him too many grey hairs. They then express their admiration of "the Dual Alliance" which propelled them through the English course; their curiosity as to the ultimate fate of W*ts's confectionery confiscated during the entertaining Physics' lessons; their appreciation of the jests which enlivened History and Geography sessions; their recollection of the patience shown them by their two mathematical Coaches. Additional bouquets are offered in memory of the Art lessons (with a special reference to the wonderful outing to Speke Hall), the Woodwork course (whose rigours were sometimes tempered by the discovery that table-tennis may be played on a bench), and lastly the Swimming lessons which included life-saving technique.

"Our present concern," conclude our contributors, "having finished the G.C.E., is to find jobs, in looking for which we acknowledge the constant help of the Headmaster. Think of us in the future, you that remain, 'slaving away' in our new jobs."

4A

THE standard of this Form's contributions remains high. Our first article is by Stanley on the Foreign Legion.

Most of us think of the 124 year old Foreign Legion in Hollywood terms, as a band of rough, but romantic characters who ride camels through the Sahara, fight hand-to-hand combats and rescue heroines in distress, while privates are being constantly bullied by officers, and awarded such punishments as being buried in sand up to the neck under the rays of the scorching sun.

Perhaps the truth about the Legion is more impressive than this legend makes out.

The Legion which, except for its officers, is not French at all is a task force of mercenaries traditionally given the most dangerous assignments in every war that France fights. It is not easy to explain the Légionnaires' extraordinary courage and morale, rated by military experts among the highest in the world. They do not fight for home or country since they have neither. Many have been misfits and failures in life. Nearly all have run away from some organisation, but seldom do they run from the battlefield.

It has often been charged that the Legion shanghai its recruits or brings them in by fraud. In recent years there have been accounts of Germans being induced to sign up. It was stated in one of these accounts that the total number of Germans was 90,000, which is more than three times the total number in the organisation. Applicants must be over five feet two inches tall and between 18 and 40 in age, or at least appear to be. No identification papers are necessary. Occasionally a recruit gives his real name, but not often. A private, whose pay rises from four to sixteen pounds a month, is sent to the blazing desert of North Africa to be trained, mostly in commando work. There he must learn discipline, which is stricter than in the Regular Army. Punishment is more severe, but there are no beatings or capital punishments. A legionnaire has to work 11 hours a day, but after working hours life is made more pleasant by such things as a swimming pool, a free cinema, games, and a reading room.

Our next and last article is by Cusick on Tunnels.

Of all man's mechanical difficulties the construction of tunnels is perhaps the one with the most dangers and difficulties. From the miner who bores into a coal seam to the engineer who boldly plunges beneath rock or mountain, each man venturing into the subterranean depths takes his life in his hands. An unsuspected lump of earth or rock may roar down on him; pockets of gas may suddenly suffocate him; or, worst of all, a sudden gush of water from any underground river or lake may engulf him suddenly before he has time to warn his companions of the danger. In spite of these dangers, however, the art of tunnelling has been carried on since very early times. Every type of tunnel, through rock, mountains, under rivers, even in soft clay, has been attempted by our ancestors. Even primitive man enlarged small holes for his home, Egyptian kings built sepulchres in the hearts of granite cliffs, and, from Babylonian days onwards, tunnels through very soft ground, and lined with masonry are known to have been cut.

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The absence of any form of explosive for natural blasting must have made all these efforts laborious; for it was not until after the invention of gunpowder that real progress was made.

Before the construction of any tunnel is begun, geologists are consulted in order to obtain as much information as is possible about possible earth-strata through which the tunnel is to be driven; for the nature of these operations depends very largely on their advice, as in the case of the Moffat Tunnel under the Rocky Mountains. This tunnel was to be drilled almost entirely through rock, and the contractors were told that of only about one thousand feet of the tunnel would have to be supported by timber, but in fact about four out of the six miles of tunnel had to be supported. The cause, which was found later, was that a large section of the mountain had slipped down, and water had penetrated the rock and softened it, thus making progress difficult.

The next step after the geologists' report is to decide upon the location of the tunnel, and then test bores are made with drills having a cutting edge faced with diamonds. The bore is examined to find what kind of rock is to be encountered, followed by fixing the line of the tunnel and the drilling of the 'pilot' tunnel, about one-fifth of the diameter of the main tunnel. This is finally enlarged and completed with lighting and ventilation.

4B.

THERE were many interesting articles received from this form but unfortunately many boys have written on the same subjects, which are submarines and flying. Interesting articles were written by Dennis and Harford but the best articles were undoubtedly these two, written by G. B. Williams and Copeland.

We start with the one from Williams, who tells us about

FLYING WITHOUT A PLANE.

Not very long ago, Leo Valentin made a record flight wearing wooden wings strapped to his back. He spiralled down nine thousand feet. However, he was not the first to attempt this kind of flying. Earlier, an American, using canvas wings, had jumped from the Eiffel Tower, flown a few yards but then had fallen like a stone and needless to say, been killed.

Valentin has also flown with canvas wings, but he preferred the wooden ones, as the canvas grips the wind, which almost tears the airman apart. Valentin has also discovered a way of guiding himself down on a parachute and this process is being named after him. From experience, he has learned to guide himself down from a high altitude almost to the place that he has marked and this is a great step towards a safer way of baling out of a doomed aircraft.

Before he devoted himself to this kind of research, Valentin was a "stunt 'chutist." He did a double act from 14,000 feet, when he and his partner would jump together and perform all kinds of aerobatics before pulling their parachute ripcords.

One would think that he had had sufficient excitement for a lifetime, but he means to continue his experiments to achieve free flight, without any engines; to fly with one's own power and to be able to feel for oneself the wonderful sensation of flying.

This is followed by Copeland's contribution:

SUBMARINES.

A modern submarine is a steel-constructed vessel made to float in water. It has two types of engine, one for running on the surface, that is, a diesel engine, and an electric motor for driving the vessel beneath the surface.

The essential part of a submarine's driving equipment is the compressed air bottles and ballast tanks on either side. These ballast tanks, filled with water, cause the submarine to sink to periscope depth, i.e., the periscope remaining just above the surface.

To dive, a screw propeller, worked by the electric motors, is used, and the angle of descent is controlled by the hydroplanes, small fins at the sides of the vessel.

When the vessel surfaces, air is pumped into the ballast tanks in place of water. This has to be done carefully, so as not to upset the balance of the submarine.

In the early years of World War II., submarines had to surface to charge their batteries, but later on the Germans invented the "Schnorkel Breathing Apparatus" or "Snort."

With this a submarine need only go up to periscope depth to recharge its batteries.

THE Form notes for this term have once again been compiled by Noel and McTear.

The majority of boys in this School find the Summer Term one of the busiest, because this is the term of hectic exams as well as numerous sporting events.

Since the beginning of the term, we have been attending Byrne Avenue Baths under the supervision of Mr. Hughes. In the half-term mark sheet, McTear once again came top with close competition between Blaylock and Needham for second place. Once more the form pulled its weight, each boy purchasing a copy of the *Visor* well in advance of any other form (much to the undying disgust of the Sixth).

Our Form is represented in the Colts cricket team by three members, namely: Kay, Lomax and Noel, with Blackwell, McTear and Williams, all striving hard to gain a place. In the Birkenhead School's Sports which were held at the Oval, our Form was represented by four members, whose best, we regret to say, was not sufficient to bring about any outstanding achievements.

The "Bee-Bop" disease which is rapidly spreading among the Form has already gripped six victims (aided by a certain Mr. Keating) although a Tony Curtis hair-style has made its horrible appearance in the Form. However we must end now with the nightmare of forthcoming exams hovering around us.

We next have an article of historic interest by Blay'ock.

A VISIT TO POOLE'S CAVERN.

Poole's cavern is one of natural occurrence, situated in Buxton. It is said that the outlaw Poole used this cavern as a hiding place. Furthermore, evidence suggests that ancient Britons and Romans have at one time inhabited the cavern. The cavern nowadays is lit by gas. At one point the cavern is 92 feet high. The atmosphere outside is damp and musty with water dripping ceaselessly from the ceiling. The inside is adorned with stalagmites and stalactites, the latter having the appearance of, and indeed being referred to as, "organ pipes." Another type are called "Bishop's Candles," owing to the fact that they glow when illuminated from behind. Some stalagmites are shaped and coloured like fried eggs. This is due to iron compounds in the rocks. An ice-cold stream runs right through the cavern, which however keeps a constant temperature throughout the year.

We conclude with Kay's article on

MISCELLANEOUS SPORTS RECORDS.

It is recorded that the world's longest boxing match took place in New Orleans on April 6th, 1893. It lasted 110 rounds, the time taken being 7 hours 19 minutes. The contestants were Andy Bowen and Jack Burke. The fastest knock-out in professional boxing is 1½ seconds. This match took place in Montreal on April 25th, 1928, where Al Forman "dropped" Ruby Levine.

The highest individual score in first class cricket was made by Sir D. Bradman who made 452 runs. The match was played in Sydney, 1929-30, between New South Wales and Queensland. Len Hutton made the highest score in Test cricket when he made 364 runs in the match against Australia in August, 1938. The world's record cricket partnerships for the second wicket, 451 runs in 6¼ hours, was made by Sir D. Bradman and Ponsford at the 5th Test match between England and Australia on August 18th, 1934. Finally, the greatest number of wickets to be taken in one Test match was 17 for 159 runs. This record was made by S. F. Barnes in the match between England and South Africa at Johannesburg in 1914.

3B.

THE first article is of topical interest. It is by Robinson and is called THE T.T. RACES AT THE ISLE OF MAN.

On Monday, June 6th, the 1955 Tourist Trophy races were started at the Isle of Man, and the first big race was the Junior Clubman T.T. race, which was won by Bill Lomas on a Motoguzzi at an average speed of 93 m.p.h.

In the 125 c.c. class, the Swiss rider Ubbiali won the race in a very fast time for these small machines at 74 m.p.h.

On Friday, June 10th, the Senior T.T. race was held, and there was much speculation whether the 100 m.p.h. lap, the motor cycle rider's 4 minute mile, would be achieved. Geoff Duke, the World Champion and also the favourite, won, as expected, at an average speed of 94 m.p.h. He broke eleven other records for the course, but failed by only .3 of a second to reach the 100 m.p.h. barrier, with a lap of 99.97 m.p.h.

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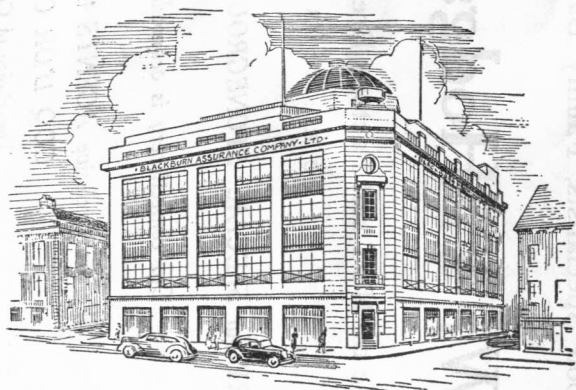
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In the sidecar race the two favourites, Cyril Smith and his partner, and Eric Oliver and his partner, had to retire from the race, and "Pip" Harris was the only well-known rider to be placed, finishing third.

Lomas, the winner of the Junior Trophy also won the 250 c.c. class, a fine "double" for the Derby engineer, who was very proud of his creditable performances as well he might be.

We close with an article by Motley called

THE MILLE MIGLIA.

The Mille Miglia is a thousand-mile car race around the toughest and most dangerous roads. All the top-rating drivers compete, and the course runs round the boot of Italy, through Padua, Ancona and Rome, up the east coast through Florence and Bologna and finally back to Brescia. The circuit runs through narrow streets, and drivers have to be most careful to avoid the masses of people.

The smaller cars are allowed to start first and after them go the big cars, such as Mercedes Benz and Jaguars. This means that the big cars have to go all out right from the start of the race.

There are only two stops in all the thousand miles, and drivers get a bite to eat while the tyres are changed and the engines refuelled.

An Englishman had never won this race until this year, when Sterling Moss was the winner with a speed of 97.95 m.p.h., a new record bettering the previous best speed of 88.3 m.p.h. which was recorded by Giannino Marzotti of Italy.

2A.

WE begin 2A's articles with this news of the Cunard Line, written by L. Cross.

THE CUNARD LINE.

On July 4th, 1840, the tiny paddle steamer *Britannia*, the first ship of the Cunard Line, sailed down the Mersey on her maiden voyage bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Boston. This was a historic occasion; for it marked the beginning of the first regular trans-atlantic steamship service for passengers and mails.

Since that day one hundred and fifteen years ago, a long succession of famous ships has maintained the Cunard way to the United States and Canada, and in those 115 years much has been done to increase both the comforts and the pleasures of the ships for the benefit of travellers.

Another event which will contribute to the long line of Cunard history will be the maiden voyage of the *Ivernia* to Quebec and Montreal. The *Ivernia* is scheduled to sail from the Mersey on June

30th, 1955, and both she and her sister ship the *Saronia* will be the biggest Cunard Line ships to sail up the St. Lawrence River to Montreal. Two other ships are being built on the same model as these, and they will be named the *Corinthia* and the *Sylvania* respectively.

The second article is by C. Leë, who calls it

THE PISTYLL FALLS.

The Pistyll Falls have crashed and smashed their way down a two hundred foot cliff face in the Welsh mountains for thousands of years. They have been flowing over the rocks for so long that they have worn arches and shapes of all kinds in the rock face. The real name for these beautiful Welsh falls is the Pistyll Rhiader, and the scenery round about is as marvellous as the falls themselves.

There is a winding sheep track by means of which it is possible to climb to the top of the falls, from where the view is like a quilt of greens of different shades with a blue stream running through it.

At the top of the falls there is a permanent rainbow whereas at the bottom the eagle-head arch of granite is a wonder in itself. The beauty of the whole place is astounding and the Falls are well worth a visit.

Our final article is by L. Johnston.

THE CHANGING OF THE FLAGS.

The Union Jack that flutters from Parliament's flagpole really does change size, from 18 feet by 9 feet to 24 feet by 12 feet sometimes even to 36 feet by 18 feet.

The biggest flag is flown only during fine weather. When the wind is freshening, the middle-sized flag is unfurled, and when gales are threatening, the smallest flag is the only one that will survive being torn to shreds. Even so, after three or four days of stiff breezes it needs mending.

Punctually at 10 a.m. each morning the Union Jack is "broken" by two Ministry of Works employees, who toil up 601 steps to do it. neither of them decides which flag to use. That decision is However, made at the office of the Lord Great Chamberlain in the House of Lords.

However, the biggest flag is tiny when compared with the largest flag ever made. This flag took four days to make and was 100 feet by 50 feet. No flagpole could withstand such a monster, and so it was hung on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Australia.

WE start off with an amusing tale by Hill.

THE PILOT.

The sun shone down on the dry dusty earth, and the tiny aircraft flying above it.

The boy's face was tense as he battled with the controls pushing a button, turning a knob, watching dials, as his plane zoomed towards the earth. With a whine which rose to an ear-splitting scream, the plane pulled out of its dive within inches of the ground. The boy paused to wipe away the perspiration. The plane climbed to a great height, its pilot striving hard to bring it safely to earth. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, the plane's nose began to drop. Down, down it dived until with a resounding crash it hit the earth smashing itself to smithereens.

The boy bent down and sadly picked up the wreckage of his model aircraft. He walked over to his radio-control box. It would take a long time to build another plane like that!

Dawson next tells us about

THE HATCHERIES OF PONT-Y-PANT

If you were to stop outside the Pont-y-Pant Hatcheries you would see a small corrugated iron shack. Furthermore if you started talking to the water-bailiff and showed some interest in the hatcheries you would probably be invited inside this shack.

Assuming you have entered the shack, the first thing you will see is a small pipe-line bringing water from the river for concrete troughs. In these troughs are perforated zinc boxes in which the young salmon and sea trout are reared. At the end of the troughs there is another pipe which leads the water back to the river. When I was there the bailiff said that only 1 per cent. of the immature salmon, collected as spawn, live to be fully mature fish.

After this I was next shown some freak fish, e.g., salmon with one body and stomach, but with two heads, salmon with one head and two stomachs, and finally salmon with two tails. When they grow older these salmon are operated on, and quite a few live afterwards. Later I was to see a section of a fully grown salmon under a microscope showing where it had had two tails. I also noticed that trout and salmon have a small tag fitted to them, to give details of their history.

The bailiff also informed me of poachers and their methods. He said bailiffs had the right to search any vehicle, boat, or container, and if necessary make an arrest. One of the bailiffs had a huge Golden Labrador retriever specially trained for retrieving things from a depth of anything up to twenty feet.

We conclude with Taylor's description of

A WHIT OUTING.

Our destination was Llangollen, and our coaches were due to leave at 9-30 a.m.

The trip there was rather uneventful, the coaches arriving at 11-15. Leaving the coaches, we set off to find a certain "Plas Newydd" where, it is said, the "Ladies of Llangollen" used to live. There we sat down for lunch.

At about 1 p.m., we left there and set off for the chain bridge two miles up the Dee. We walked along the main road and reaching a small opening turned left and went down a lane and under a railway bridge. From here we got on to a piece of rock which juts out into the river. However this procedure was of no avail because the rock ended abruptly and so we plodded back the way we had come and on reaching the road, followed it to the chain bridge. Here we spent the afternoon sun-bathing.

When we returned to the coaches we found that our particular coach had a puncture. However, a spare wheel was sent from Mold and after a delay of some three-quarters of an hour we finally reached home at 11 p.m.

IA.

THE standard of the work sent in by this form remains high, and Donahue and Leeming deserve mention for their interesting, though unsuccessful, articles. The first article is by MacMaster, and it is called

LIVERPOOL LANDING STAGE.

I have visited the Landing Stage on many occasions, but had never known just how important it is until the facts were explained to me by one of the Head Stage-men.

The Stage is a floating structure which combines both the Prince's and the George's Stage. It is half a mile long and rests on 200 iron pontoons, eighty feet long, ten feet wide, and six feet deep. Hinged bridges and mooring chains hold the Stage in position, and these are fixed into the River Wall with large iron rings. The level of the Stage is six to seven feet above the water. At the George's end of the Stage are the fixed gangways for the ferry boats.

For the Transatlantic vessels, movable gangways are used, and there are also high level bridges to reach the decks of the ocean-going 'Leviathans.' The main bridges are one hundred and ten feet long, and they slope down to the land so that passengers may use them at all states of the tide. The traffic bridge, however, cannot be used at low water, and a special floating bridge has been made near the centre of the Stage to surmount this difficulty.

On the Stage are numerous buildings, Customs Examination sheds, shelter sheds, Post and Telegraph Offices, and also the Harbour Board Salvage Shed, which is fully equipped with diving gear, in case vessels damage themselves or get wire caught in their propellers when they are berthing or leaving. The diving-boat is moored at the back of Prince's Stage.

Transatlantic liners can come alongside the Stage and arrive and depart at all states of the tide, and it is possible for two liners or cross-channel steamers, and three ferry-boats to berth at the same time. This gives some idea of the size of the stage. To make it even more convenient for passengers, the Mersey Dock and Harbour Board built the Riverside Railway Station in 1895 so that travellers who so wish can catch a train to London immediately they arrive. The station is placed between Prince's Dock and the Landing Stage, quite close to the ships.

Langley writes the next article and calls it

THE PAST HISTORY OF MY HOUSE.

The house that I live in is one hundred and two years old and is situated in Oxton. I have learnt something very interesting about this house: it was once the family house of Richard Le Gallienne, an Anglo-American critic, essayist, and poet who was born in Liverpool in 1866 and who died in 1947. He lived here as a boy, and a little while ago I learnt that my bedroom was once his. This I learnt from two men who are writing a history of Richard Le Gallienne's life. Among his works are the following:—"Prose Fancies," "The Quest of the Golden Girl," and "Pieces of Eight," and among the poems are "Odes from the Divan of Haliz," and "English Poems."

We close with Bonney's

VISIT TO THE SPEEDWELL CAVERN.

When I was on holiday with my parents in 1950 they took me to Castleton in Derbyshire to visit the Speedwell Cavern.

Our guide led us down one hundred and four steps before we reached the flat-bottomed boat in which we were to explore the disused, and now flooded, lead mines.

The only means of illumination was by the candles which we carried in our hands and by a large, powerful torch carried by the guide. When we were seated in the boat it was possible for us to propel it along the tunnel by pushing with our hands on the roof, which was only about two feet six above our heads. It was rather an eerie journey and the slightest noise was magnified to re-echo all around the tunnel. We passed holes in the side of the tunnel called pockets, in which the miners would find nuggets of lead varying in size.

We were also shown formations of stalactites on the roof, and it is wonderful to think that these take thousands of years to grow to any noticeable length. The tunnel was about 750 yards in length, and when we were about halfway along it the guide told us that we were 450 ft. below the surface of the mountain and were still penetrating into it.

Eventually we reached Speedwell Cavern, where we were able to get out of the boat and walk around on a platform of solid rock. We were told that rockets had been fired to a height of 450 ft. without reaching the top, and when we looked over the guard rail, there was a sheer drop of unknown depth, which the miners called the "Bottomless Pit." At this point we were half a mile below the ground.

I could relate more about this disused lead mine, but even the little that I have written brings back memories of one of the most exciting adventures of my life.

iB.

WE start off with an article of local interest by J. Mattingley.

BIDSTON OBSERVATORY.

Bidston Observatory, with its two white domes, is a well-known landmark in Wirral. This solid stone building was erected by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board in 1866. The observatory is a wonder-house of instruments and machines. There are instruments which record earthquakes in any part of the world. One is so sensitive that it can measure how much the land in Liverpool Bay has sunk when high tide brings an additional weight of water on it. The one o'clock gun, on the Morpeth Dock, that gives Greenwich Mean Time to Merseyside, is electrically controlled and fired from the Observatory.

The tide-predicting machine was invented at the Observatory. By means of this enormous machine, the height and time of the high tide at any place in the world can be worked out; in fact the time-tables for all British ports are worked out here. By touching an electric switch, are intricate maze of geared wheels, discs and pulleys is set in motion and produces results in a matter of minutes which previously took days of calculation on paper.

Some years ago a company was formed to recover the treasure lost by King John in 1216 when crossing the Wash. The date being known, the tide predictor was able to give the height and time of the tide that very day, over seven hundred years ago.

We next have an article by Douglas called:—

THE MYSTERY SHIPS.

The romance of the U-boats in the first World War had become so great that some effective means had to be thought out to overcome it. The mystery ships were constructed in the hopes that they would solve the problem, under the command of Captain Gordon Campbell, V.C., D.S.O. and Bar. These ships were innocent-looking trading vessels, but manned by the Royal Navy. Where a U-boat attacked them, a 'panic' crew would rush for the life-boats and abandon ship. Consequently the U-boat would surface, only to be met by the quick-firing of three twelve-pounders hidden on board. What happened was that the wheel-house collapsed, trap doors flew open on deck, and guns and gun-crews were revealed. The first ship was the "Farnborough." These mystery ships were the only really effective weapon against the U-Boat.

We conclude with some brief form notes by W. R. Jones.

A few weeks ago the Old Boys held a Summer Fayre. There were plenty of people there and the Fayre was opened by Wally Thom and Pat MacAtteer, two celebrated boxers.

The sports are drawing near and we are all looking forward to the races, jumping, throwing the discus, and throwing the cricket ball. Unfortunately there are very few of us who can do the high jump, but the majority of us did the quarter-mile in under 80 seconds in standards, and we also did the 100 yds. in good time.

Exams are drawing near, and Edbrooke has come first in class, which I think he has deserved because he has worked hard this term, especially in English. Most of the class have gained better marks.

Cricket

1ST XI.

OF the eleven matches played so far this season, five have been won, one tied, three drawn, and two lost.

The team made a poor start by being beaten soundly by Calday Grange Grammar School, holding Park High School to a tie, and then drawing with St. Anselm's College in a very uninspired game. St. Anselm's College declared at 73 for 9 wickets, leaving plenty of time for the runs to be obtained. The XI., however, did not seem to appreciate the position, batting very tamely, and scoring 62 for 5 wickets at a very slow rate before time was called. The possibility of a win's being forced did not occur to the batsmen until it was seen at the end that they were only 12 runs short of victory. A most disappointing match!

The team adopted a different attitude entirely the following week and defeated Holt High School when conditions were very much against them, scoring 81 runs for 4 wickets in an hour, Hodgson making 26 not out and Lythgoe 21.

Heavy rain forced the captains to abandon the game against Oldershaw Grammar School with only a quarter-hour to play, when a most interesting position had been reached, Oldershaw having declared at 83 for 9 wickets and the School having made 70 for 8 wickets. In this match Mathieson made 44 runs and took 7 wickets for 25 runs.

The School then had two convincing victories against Wirral Grammar School and Liverpool Collegiate, a feature of both games being an opening total of 51 by Lythgoe and H. S. Jones, who made 33 not out and 20 respectively in the former match and 30 and 12 respectively in the latter.

This victorious atmosphere did not last, however, because in the next game the XI. was well and truly beaten by Liverpool Institute, who fielded a far superior side. Certainly the standard of cricket played by the opponents was far higher than any seen elsewhere this season.

Rain intervened and held up play for over an hour in a return game with Park High School, the result being a draw.

The School returned to winning ways by defeating Wade Deacon Grammar School and Alsop High School in convincing style in the last two matches to be played to date.

Games still to be played are against Bootle Grammar School, Chester City Grammar School, Rock Ferry High School, Quarry Bank High School, and the Old Boys' Rugby Club.

2nd XI.

Neither of the matches played by the 2nd XI. resulted in a win for the School. The first match against Calday G.S. was fairly evenly contested, as, in reply to a score of 119 by our opponents, we made 87 for the loss of 7 wickets. Of this total Robb scored 34 and Prodger 16.

In the second match, versus Oldershaw G.S., the batting lacked enterprise, and only Walsh and T. R. Jones offered any resistance, scoring between them 30 out of the total of 55. Our opponents succeeded in passing this score with the loss of only 4 wickets.

JUNIOR XI's.

Some keen and promising players have emerged from the matches played by the Junior XI's, although adverse weather or other reasons resulted in the cancellation of 4 of these matches to date. Of the 5 matches so far played by the Colts, 1 has been won, 1 tied, and 3 have been lost. Weakness in batting has resulted in low scores in every match except that against St. Anselm's College in which a fine innings of 58 by Lee and a spirited 26 by Easdown i. accounted for 84 out of our total of 100. Incidentally we were thought to have won this match by two runs, until a check of the score book revealed a delinquency on the part of our scorer! Another close result was in the match against Wirral G.S., when our opponents set us a modest target of 33 runs, which we failed to reach by 3.

The under 13 XI. has been able to fulfil only one of its fixtures v. Park H.S., when an easy victory was gained by 6 wickets. Jones bowled well to take 6 for 17, whilst Phipps and Barrett scored 29 out of the 38 which secured us the victory. Phipps handled the team well and should prove a useful captain with more experience.

Both Junior XI's. have shown great keenness in the field, although sometimes catches have been missed through over-anxiety, and the bowling has generally been steady if not inspired. The batting, however, except in a few individual cases, has been lamentably weak: this can be remedied only by steady and conscientious practice. There has been considerable competition to gain a place in the team, which would be welcome in greater measure among the Seniors.

In conclusion we should like to express our sincere thanks again to the Ladies' Committee for their unstinting efforts in providing us with such excellent teas.

RESULTS.

1ST XI.

Calday Grange Grammar School	Lost—49 For—50 for 3	Against.	
Park High School	Tied—64 For—64 for 8	declared Against.	
St. Anselm's College...	Drawn—62 for 5 For—73 for 9	declared Against.	
Holt High School.....	Won—81 for 4 For—79 for 8	Against.	
Oldershaw Grammar School...	Drawn—70 for 8 For—83 for 9	dec. Agst.	
Wirral Grammar School	Won—65 for 2 For—61 for 9	dec. Against.	
Liverpool Collegiate	Won—59 for 7 For—58 for 7	dec. Against.	
Liverpool Institute	Lost—37 For—167 for 8	declared Against.	
Park High School	Drawn—67 for 9	dec. For—47 for 4	Against.
Wade Deacon Grammar School	Won—77 for 5 for—75	Against.	
Alsop High School	Won—61 for 7 For—60	Against.	

2ND XI.

Calday Grange Grammar School...	Drawn 84 for 7 For—119	Against.
Oldershaw Grammar School	Lost—55 For—56 for 4	Against.

UNDER 13 XI.

Park High School	Won—38 for 4 For—36	Against.
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COLTS.

Park High School	Won—3 for—24	Against.
St. Anselm's College	Tied—100 For—100	Against.
Holt High School	Lost—19 For—20 for 4	Against.
Wirral Grammar School	Lost—35 For—33	Against.
Liverpool Institute	Lost—16 For—100	Against.

Chess

AS becomes the season of drowsiness, of Examinations, and of open air activity, Chess has enjoyed a period of repose. Indeed, the only feature of this sterile (as far as Chess goes) term was the Junior Chess Congress at Liverpool—rather the back end of last season than the harbinger of a new one. At Liverpool, three of our competitors distinguished themselves. In the Open Section 5, P. Jones tied for top place, as did D. Barwell in the Under 13 Section 2; while in the Under 13 Section 9, D. Carruthers excelled himself by coming 1st with the maximum number of points. These three victors, we may rest assured, will furnish a solid nucleus of B.I. teams in the future.

W.N.B.

Music

THE group studying harmony continues to meet, and some hymn tunes have been composed by its students. It is to be hoped that any promising results will induce those whose early enthusiasm cooled to resume attendance at the meetings; recruits, to replace those of its Sixth Form members who will be leaving this term, will be welcomed. The panel of morning pianists, one member of whom is a First Former, is still eagerly looking for more budding cathedral organists. It may be that there are some boys competent enough to accompany a hymn, but too shy or nervous to volunteer. Remember that playing in front of the School is excellent practice, and indeed the only way of overcoming nervousness.

It is hoped to hold, before the end of term, some informal musical meetings, to which those interested, or those likely to be able to help in furthering the musical life of the School, will be invited. Everyone doubtless remembers the recorder groups, which flourished a year or so ago; Mr. Shaw proposes to re-form these groups; so you musical members of the Second, Third, and Fourth Forms had better blow the dust from and resume practising on your descants in C.

It is pointless to hold mass musical appreciation meetings before a more general musical interest and knowledge are built up. Mr. Shaw believes that it is most important to attack music in a practical way—the harmony group attempts to compose, and the lower forms study good songs by learning to sing them themselves. In this way, with the enthusiasm of the lower and middle forms, a genuine appreciation of and feeling for music can be established, and we can look forward to the day when the lower forms will accompany the morning hymn with a descant written by one of their own members. E.H.H.

News of Old Boys

WE congratulate Geoffrey Yeomans on gaining the Sexton Barton Prize of the Royal Cambrian Academy for his study of the great Ionic-pillared arch at Birkenhead Park Entrance. Mr. Yeomans went to the Birkenhead School of Art after leaving the Institute, and purposes to continue his studies in Liverpool. His painting was exhibited at the seventy-third exhibition of the Cambrian Academy, and will doubtless gain him early recognition as an artist of outstanding promise.

* * *

J. E. Spink has been appointed to the permanent staff of the Picton Library. An Associate of the Library Association, Mr. Spink did his early training at the world famous John Rylands research library in Manchester, and will now continue his work for his professional Fellowship.

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