

# THE VISOR

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MAGAZINE OF  
BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE

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SUMMER 1956

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### *School Calendar*

Summer term began .....	April 16th.
Speech Day holiday .....	May 4th.
Half term .....	May 21st and 22nd.
Athletic Sports .....	June 7th.
Summer term ends .....	July 20th.
Autumn term begins .....	September 3rd.
Half-term .....	November 1st and 2nd.
Autumn Term ends .....	December 20th.
Spring Term begins .....	January 7th, 1957.



## Editorial

WHILE the outside world continues to lag behind us in intelligence and to behave in the drollest manner, we pursue our way serene and unperturbed. This has been a summer marked by diligent use of the demonstrative adjective of astonishment, not to say derision. But it has not troubled us. Monaco is a long way from Whetstone Lane, and we were far too busy to attend 'that wedding.' Nor were we at Claridge's during 'that visit'; and, so amiable are our relations with the bulk of our contemporaries, it goes without saying we were absent from 'that dinner.' In fact, while the world has fumed and fretted, we have continued as of yore, and, to the best of our belief, no academic frogman has been detected taking an illicit submarine peep at our scholastic keel-plates. But there has been plenty doing, as readers of this number of the *Visor* will discover. We have been occupied preparing for the customary summer festival of examinations at various altitudes from the august scholarship level to the humbler promotion stakes; we have been active participants in the seasonal contest between English weather and the cricket fixture cards; we have clattered out enthusiastically to the baths, we have trained for the sports, and we have been visited by officials. Throughout we have been conscious that one more chapter in the Institute's long history is drawing to its close. While we pay tribute to our retiring Headmaster elsewhere in this number, we cannot end this Editorial without some recognition of the School's debt to Mr. Jones over so long a period. Though the *Visor* is nearly thirty years old (and not out!), he was teaching in 'the lab.' a whole school generation before that. It is at such times of farewell that we are reminded of the passing years and of the great part the Institute has played in the educational life of the borough. We are confident that further illustrious instalments of our saga are in the making and that the *Visor* as they say of the Navy—"will be there."

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Valete

6S. T. J. Stonley.

4B. W. D. Perry.

## Mr. A. O. Jones. An Appreciation

WITH the retirement of the Headmaster this term, the Institute loses one of its most familiar figures. Stated in bald chronology, Mr. Jones joined the staff in 1920 as Chemistry Master, became Senior Master in 1951, and finally Headmaster in 1953, having thus served here for no less than 36 years. But there is much more to the story than that, and perhaps one of his colleagues who has worked with him for over a quarter of a century may be permitted to say a little more. This School has been singularly fortunate in the number of its masters who have given a lifetime of devotion to it. The world's glittering prizes may go to the restless and ambitious, but the most enduring influence is exercised by those who labour faithfully in one vineyard. When the history of Birkenhead Institute is finally written (a consummation which is *not* devoutly to be wished), the work of Mr. Jones will merit a large chapter in it.

What strikes one first about the Headmaster is the amazing and effortless friendliness and consideration he has always shown. To a new and inexperienced colleague this was the greatest boon; for there are many places where newcomers are not welcomed. He always offered this friendship readily and without stint to every new master on his arrival, and to the university students who have been regularly attached to us. As was said of a great British field-marshal famous for the good fellowship he created among his staff, not all men were capable of it, but a few more might try. Pretentious humbugs have to affect a self-protecting dignity, but a real man is always friendly. If the Institute Staff Room has always been celebrated for its happy atmosphere, not a little of the credit for this achievement—and like many other good things in life, it is not always sufficiently appreciated—must go to Mr. Jones.

Secondly, one was always struck by his ability to get to the root of a matter, to refuse to be fussed over and by detail, and, as the saying is, "to cut the cackle." This characteristic has enabled the School to be run with an economy of executive interference without impairing its efficiency. Everyone with a job to do has been allowed to get on with it, and excellent all-round results in the School's work and games alike have justified this eminently sane approach to our day-to-day problems.

Lastly, one may mention some of the aspects of Mr. Jones's career over so many years here:—his outstanding success as a teacher of chemistry (not achieved without a strenuous keeping abreast of modern research in a subject which he would be the first to admit



has been revolutionised in his own life time); his influence on the School's Rugby—based on that finest of all foundations for the purpose—an upbringing in South Wales; and finally his warm and deep regard for generations of Old Boys, the careers of many of whom were first directed towards success by his special interest in and knowledge of the commercial and industrial professions.

Having said so much of a colleague and friend from whom one parts with a great sense of loss, it only remains to wish Mr. Jones the best of good fortune in the retirement he so signally deserves—a wish which will be echoed by many in Birkenhead and far beyond it.

## *Speech Day*

**S**PEECH Day, which took place this year on the evening of Thursday, March 15th, created history in two ways:—because we had for the first time the use of the hall of the Technical College, and because, as a result of the spacious accommodation at our disposal, we had a record attendance of parents and friends. The evening was enjoyed, we hope, by all; but it was with a shock of surprise and regret that most of us learned that the Headmaster, Mr. A. O. Jones, would be leaving the School at the end of the Summer term. Alderman W. E. Power, the Chairman of the School Governors, who presided, spoke warmly of Mr. Jones's work and the appreciation in which he was held by the Governors, sentiments which were approved and loudly applauded by all. The prizes and certificates were presented by Professor R. A. Morton, Professor of Biochemistry in the University of Liverpool, who honoured us in becoming our principal guest of the evening.

### **PROGRAMME.**

School .....	"Pioneers" .....	Martin Shaw.
Report by the Headmaster (A. O. Jones, M.Sc.)		
Lower School .....	"Orpheus with his Lute".....	Sir Arthur Sullivan.
Recorders .....	"Cradle Song" .....	Schubert.
	"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" .....	Bach.
Distribution of Prizes and Certificates and Address by Professor R. A. Morton, Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.R.S.		
Vote of Thanks.		
Lower School.....	"Song of the Music Makers" .....	Cyril Winn.
The National Anthem.		

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Hodgson, A. S.—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.

Horne, D. E.—Mathematics (Distinction), Physics, Chemistry.

Hubbard, E. H.—English Literature, History, History and Appreciation of Art.

Jones, K. W.—French.

Lindop, R.—History, Latin, French.

Marrs, I.—Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry.

Mathieson, D. M.—English Literature.

O'Hare, J. R. A.—History.

Phipps, J.—History, Latin, French.

Prodger, P. G.—English Literature, History.

Tudor, M. J. E.—Physics.

#### At Ordinary Level—

Allsopp, J.; Arthur, W. J.; Blackburn, P. R.; Boyd, D. A.; Caldwell, A. R.; Clampitt, R.; Cooper, N. S.; Cundill, K. W.; Emmitt, D. A. B.; Evans, G. A. J.; Fawcett, W. J.; Fitzgerald, T. A.; Garnham, D. C.; Girven, W. R.; Grayson, S. J.; Gun Why, W.; Henney, R. G. D.; Hodson, D. S.; Hodson, R.; Hopner, K. R.; Jones, A.; Jones, D. D. T.; Jones, J. B.; Jones, P.; Kellett, C. V.; Lloyd, G. J.; Lloyd, S. M.; Lutner, E. E.; Lythgoe, P. J.; Mathews, D. A.; Newcombe, J. R.; Pinnington, R. E.; Reynolds, T.; Roberts, R. J.; Robinson, P. L.; Sherry, P. E.; Smith, J. G.; Stephens, J. A.; Stonley, T. J.; Stringer, A.; Walsh, B. A.; Walsh, T. J.; Watt, F. G.; Williams, G. G.; Wood, J. M.

#### Internal Scholarships—

Henry Tate (School) Scholarships.

Jones, K. W.; Peers, H. W.; Reed, G. A.; Taylor, J. O.



### Scholarships and Awards—

State Scholarships—Green, J. E.; Heath, P.; Horne, D. E.  
Birkenhead County Borough Scholarships—Green, J. E.; Heath, P.; Horne, D. E.  
Henry Tate (University) Exhibitions—Hodgson, A. S.; Marrs, I.  
Open Exhibition (£40) to St. John's College, Cambridge—  
Bryant, W. N.

### PRIZE LIST 1954-55.

Form Ib—1st, Mattingley, J. M.; 2nd, Edbrooke, G. R.; 3rd, Elliott, J. K.  
Form Ia—1st, Leeming, M. R.; 2nd, Bonney, M. W.; 3rd, Johnson, W. G.  
Form IIb—1st, Hayes, R. J. B.; 2nd, Pulford, R. A.; 3rd, Jones, J. G.  
Form IIa—1st, Kellett, G. L.; 2nd, Barwell, D.; 3rd, Chesworth, D. C.  
Form IIIb—Murtagh, G. M.; 2nd, Charters, D. M.  
Form IIIa—1st, McTear, G.; 2nd, Williams, C.; 3rd, Blaylock, P. A.  
Form IVb—1st, Williams, G. B.; 2nd, Harford, D. E. W.  
Form IVa—1st, Salmon, R. F.; 2nd, White, L. E.; 3rd, Baxter, J. S.  
Form Vb—1st, Williams, G. G.; 2nd, Clampitt, R.; 3rd, Sherry, P. E.  
Form Va—1st, Walsh, T. J.; 2nd, Hopner, K. R.; 3rd, Kellett, C. V.  
Form VI—English, Taylor, B.; History, Jones, S. J. R.; Languages, Jones, S. J. R.; Mathematics, Peers, H. W.; Science, Peers, H. W.

### SPECIAL PRIZES—

Connacher Memorial Prize for English—Hubbard, E. H.  
Solly Memorial Prize for History—Prodger, P. G.  
The George Holt Prizes:—Science, Green, J. E.; Mathematics, Horne, D. E.; Languages, Phipps, J.  
The Forshaw Memorial Prize for Art—Hubbard, E. H.  
Special Prize for Chemistry—Heath, P.  
Special Prize for Physics—Green, J. E.  
Special Prize for Biology—Haggerty, G. A.  
Old Boys' Memorial Prize—Marrs, I.  
Headmaster's Prize—Hodgson, A. S.

### SPORTS—

Chess Champion—Marrs, I. (Senior); Morgan, J. F. (Junior).  
Victor Ludorum—Hodgson, A. S. (Senior); Lee, D. L. (Junior).  
Silver Cup for Games—Hodgson, A. S. (Senr.); Lee, D. L. (Junr.)

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His Majesty King George VI. Coronation Cup—Stitt (Champion House for the Year).

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Coronation Cup for Rugby Football—Tate.

### SUCSESSES AT UNIVERSITIES.

#### University of Cambridge—

Natural Sciences Tripos, Part I., Class II., Div. I.—  
Mitchell, E. E. L.

#### University of Birmingham—

Faculty of Arts—

Degree of B.A. (Honours), Class II. (Modern Languages)—  
Harris, J. D.

#### University of Durham—

Faculty of Arts—

Degree of B.A.—Citrine, T. G.

#### University of Edinburgh—

Faculty of Medicine—

Degree of M.B., Ch.B.—Ledsome, J. R.

Degree of M.B., Ch.B. Final Examination Part III.—Hellon, C.P.

#### University of Leeds—

Faculty of Arts—

Degree of B.A.—Gee, J. D.

Faculty of Technology—

Degree of B.Sc. with First Class Honours (Chemical Engineering)—Plimley, R. E.

#### University of Manchester—

Faculty of Science—

Degree of B.Sc 2nd Year Examination—Taylor, E.

#### University of Liverpool—

Faculty of Arts—

Degree of B.A. (Special Studies in English) Part II. (Honours)  
Class II. Div. I.—Gleave, J.

Degree of B.A. (General Studies) 2nd Year Examination—

Davies, B.; Jordan, J. E.; Parry, K.

Degree of B.A. (Special Studies in Economics) Part I.—

Weir, C. W.

School of Architecture—

Degree of B.Arch. with First Class Honours—Silcock, D. D. J.

Degree of B.Arch.—Dobbing P.

Faculty of Science—

Degree of B.Sc. with First Class Honours in Chemistry—

Dodd, G. M.

Degree of B.Sc.—Lovatt, J. H.; Morris, J. R.

Degree of B.Sc. Part I.—Haughton, B. A.; Turner, R.

Faculty of Engineering—

Degree of B.Eng. (Electronic Engineering)—Moore, D. H.

Degree of B.Eng. Intermediate Examination—Molyneux, B. H. P.

School of Dental Surgery—

Licence in Dental Surgery, Final Examination—Turner, H. M.

Licence in Dental Surgery, Second Examination—Smith, H.

University of London—

Faculty of Science—

Degree of B.Sc. with Honours in Mathematics. Class II.—

Coen, W. B.

University of Wales—

Degree of B.A. with First Class Honours in French—Gore, K. O.

Degree of B.A. First Examination—Jones, N. N.

Faculty of Science—

Degree of B.Sc. First Examination—Sherlock, G. H. L.

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The Royal Institute of British Architects—Diploma (A.R.I.B.A.)

4th Examination—Ennion J.

Local Government Examination Board—1st Examination—

Wilkinson, N. J.

#### APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS.

- Professor Sir Henry Cohen, M.D., LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., F.S.A., J.P.—Honorary Freeman, County Borough of Birkenhead; Degree of D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) University of Nottingham; Hunterian Orator, Hunterian Society.
- Sir Herbert J. Manzoni, M.I.C.E. (Chief Engineer and Surveyor, City of Birmingham)—Member Royal Commission Kenya Colony and Protectorate.
- Gordon Bowen, M.A.—Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G.) as Senior Commissioner Board of Trade, Ottawa.
- J. F. Galloway, M.D., D.P.H.—Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Wolverhampton.
- J. W. Pickup, M.D., D.P.H.—Medical Officer of Health, County of Worcester.
- E. V. Lane, M.A.—Lecturer in Geography, University of Tasmania.
- A. A. Smith, B.A.—Fellow of the University of Liverpool (English Literature).
- G. Yeomans—Special Prize in Painting, Royal Cambrian Academy.
- G. M. Dodd, B.Sc.—Leblanc Medal (Chemistry), University of Liverpool.
- R. E. Plimley, B.Sc.—Leblanc Medal (Chemical Engineering), University of Leeds.
- R. H. Moffat—Justice of the Peace, County Borough of Birkenhead.
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## Athletic Sports

**T**HIS year the Sports were held on Thursday, June 7th, and for once our traditional good weather failed us and it rained, at times extremely hard, almost throughout the proceedings. Nevertheless, event succeeded event without a single hitch, and the entire programme was completed in the smoothest fashion, a great tribute to the organising abilities of Mr. Robins and all those members of staff who assisted him.

Despite the weather and the change from Saturday to Thursday, there was a very good attendance of parents and friends, whom we were very pleased to see. The Governors were represented by our Chairman, Alderman W. E. Power, who later presented the prizes and trophies to the winners of the various events. Another notable visitor was the Chairman of the Education Committee, Alderman F. Garstang, who was accompanied by Mrs. Garstang. Mrs. Curtis and Mr. and Mrs. E. Wynne Hughes were also welcome guests. We had hoped, too, to meet Mr. Meggs, who is so generous a patron of the Sports, but we were disappointed in this. The prizes given by Mr. Meggs were specially mentioned by the Chairman in his speech.

In conclusion, we should like to thank all those who by their attendance, their gifts, or their labours, contributed to the success of this annual function, and especially the Ladies' Committee for their work and their generosity, not only on this special occasion, but during every week of the School calendar.

### RESULTS.

**Cross County Senior:** 1, D. L. Lee; 2, S. J. R. Jones; 3, R. Pinning.

**Cross Country Intermediate:** 1, A. A. Forrester; 2, D. D. Jones; 3, E. Barrett.

**Cross Country Junior:** 1, W. Johnson; 2, K. D. Humphries; 3, P. Chambers.

**1st Form Long Jump:** 1, P. Manley; 2, P. D. Cooke; 3, J. Dodd.

**2nd Form High Jump:** 1, A. A. Forrester; 2, J. K. Elliot; 3, A. McCarter.

**2nd Form Long Jump:** 1, A. A. Forrester; 2, A. McCarter; 3, J. M. Mattingley.

**3rd Form Discus:** 1, Bird, P. A.; 2, C. M. Lee; 3, J. Jones.

**3rd Form Long Jump:** 1, Tie, E. Barrett and D. C. Chesworth; 3, F. Hadfield.

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**4th Form Putting the Shot:** 1, D. Brocklebank; 2, C. Williams; 3, G. K. Greaves.

**4th Form Discus:** 1, Irwin, P. L.; 2, T. Wild; 3, T. Harris.

**4th Form Javelin:** 1, G. K. Greaves; 2, D. Edge; 3, C. Williams.

**4th Form High Jump:** 1, P. Blaylock; 2, P. L. Irwin; 3, D. W. M. Wylie.

**4th Form Long Jump:** 1, D. W. M. Wylie; 2, R. R. Blackwell; 3, C. Williams.

**Senior Putting the Shot:** 1, J. H. Pritchard; 2, C. Colley; 3, J. Taylor.

**Senior Discus:** 1, K. W. Jones; 2, R. E. Pinning; 3, G. A. Haggerty.

**Senior High Jump:** 1, D. L. Lee; 2, T. Hardy; 3, W. H. Weaver.

**Senior Long Jump:** 1, D. L. Lee; 2, J. Newcombe; 3, K. W. Jones.

**Senior Javelin:** 1, H. S. Jones; 2, S. J. R. Jones; 3, G. A. Haggerty.

**Senior 440 Yds.:** 1, D. Lee; 2, G. Buckland-Evers; 3, H. S. Hunt.

**1st Form 100 Yds.:** 1, B. M. Canning; 2, A. Steedman; 3, A. McIntosh.

**2nd Form 220 Yds.:** 1, A. A. Forrester; 2, A. McCarter; 3, M. R. Leeming.

**3rd Form 440 Yds.:** 1, D. D. Jones; 2, E. Barrett; 3, M. V. Pierce.

**4th Form 100 Yds.:** 1, D. W. M. Wylie; 2, R. R. Blackwell; 3, C. Williams.

**1st Form 220 Yds.:** 1, B. M. Canning; 2, A. McIntosh; 3, A. Steedman.

**2nd Form 100 Yds.:** 1, A. A. Forrester; 2, A. McCarter; 3, N. H. Parry.

**Senior 880 Yds.:** 1, T. Hardy; 2, R. Pinning; 3, I. M. McIntosh.

**1st Form Obstacle:** 1, R. A. Meacock; 2, M. Chesworth; 3, M. V. Jones.

**3rd Form 100 Yds.:** 1, D. D. Jones; 2, E. Barrett; 3, D. C. Chesworth.

**4th Form 880 Yds.:** 1, T. Harris; 2, G. Rimmer; 3, A. Kay.

**1st Form High Jump:** 1, T. Jones; 2, Tie: A. McIntosh and B. M. Canning.

**Open Mile:** 1, P. G. Evans; 2, S. J. Jones; 3, V. Smith.

**Senior 100 Yds.:** 1, D. Lee; 2, K. W. Jones; 3, G. Buckland-Evers.

**2nd Form 440 Yds.:** 1, A. A. Forrester; 2, A. McCarter; 3, J. M. Mattingley.

**Form 440 Yds.:** 1, A. Steedman; 2, N. E. Capstick; A, A. McIntosh.

**3rd Form High Jump:** 1, E. Barrett; 2, F. Hadfield; 3, D. C. Chesworth.

**Senior Relay:** Tate Team.

**4th Form 220 Yds.:** 1, D. W. M. Wylie; 2, G. K. Greaves; 3, D. Brocklebank.

**3rd Form 220 Yds.:** 1, D. D. Jones; 2, W. V. Pierce; 3, E. Barrett.

**4th Form 440 Yds.:** 1, D. W. M. Wylie; 2, C. Williams; 3, J. F. Morgan.

**Senior 220 Yds.:** 1, R. Naybour; 2, D. Lee; 3, G. Buckland-Evers.

**1st Form Relay:** Westminster Team.

**2nd Form Relay (Junior Cup):** Tate Team.

**3rd Form Relay:** Westminster Team.

**4th Form Relay (Intermediate Cup):** Tate Team.

**Senior Relay:** Atkin Team.

**Special Prizes, given by Mr. Meggs:—**

R. Naybour: 1st XV.; 1st XI.; Chess Team; Westminster House Captain.

R. R. Blackwell: Colts Rugby Team; 1st XI.

**Senior Victor Ludorum:** D. L. Lee (Atkin), 34 points.

Runner-up: K. W. Jones (Atkin), 17 points.

**Junior Victor Ludorum:** E. Barrett (Tate), 27 points.

Runner-up: D. D. Jones (—), 22 points.

**Champion House:**

1, Atkin—253 points; 2, Tate—237 points; 3, Westminster—207 points; 4, Stitt—153 points.

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## *One Way Round the World*

CAPTAIN Fraser of the Federation Line, with his aggressive beard, his baleful drooping left eyelid, and his "get off my bridge" manner, was the oracle of the saloon bar of the Lord Rodney. He had sailed every sea and been sunk at one time or another in most of them. Such a man clearly had much to talk about; and to do Fraser justice he did, explosively, dogmatically, and at length. There he was in his sacred corner with the usual admiring audience; Parks of the City of Hankow; "gentleman" Dodd with the long-range-look tanker skippers perched at the wrong end of their craft acquire; together with some by-products of salt water in the persons of a forwarding agent, an underwriter, a dock master, and a customs man. But this meeting had an unusual aspect; for Fraser's customary querulous monologue had been turned off. Most of the talking was being done by a stranger who seemed very much at ease. He was a weather-beaten little man, difficult to place, carefully but not expensively dressed, genial and voluble, evidently widely travelled, but with something disarming in his manner, showing a child-like eagerness to get as well as to give information. Fraser was clearly at a loss, and for once he appeared to be holding his danger signals—a pronounced increase of the Dumbarton Road accent and a restless feeling about for an invisible belaying-pin—in reserve. When I joined the group, fascinated by the strange sensation of the Fraser engines at 'slow,' the little man had been holding forth about New Orleans.

"A wicked hole," Fraser said, when the visitor's attention to his own glass allowed the Treasury Bench to get a word in edgewise, "with an atmosphere about ten times stickier than Sefton Park Palm-house. Makes you feel wickedness coming to the boil. One trip I was there just before —"

"It isn't always like that though," from the leader of the Opposition, who was leaning forward with the bursting vitality of a youngster at a party who must have his say. "Sometimes it snows like billy-o. and the street cars get stalled and have to be left out all night, strung along Canal Street. Ever seen a wider street than that, Captain?"

Fraser, slightly mollified by this deference to his opinion, tried to regain command of the situation. You could almost see him pushing his bridge telegraph over, as he launched into a lecture on the world's most famous thoroughfares. He earned a few vivacious nods of agreement before he lost the service again. "Adelaide and Winnipeg could beat 'em into a cocked-hat though, Captain." Copious reminiscences of each followed for some minutes, when the stranger

suddenly went off on a new tack, just in time to relieve Fraser's blood pressure. "What's the best harbour you ever anchored in, Captain?" This, one of the Scot's favourite professorial themes, looked like having a long run. But, after his rival's bright, dancing eyes had watched Fraser attentively for a minute or so, there was another intervention.

"Wait, Captain. I always thought San Francisco was the best of the lot. When I got my ticket . . ."

"Of course. Any fool knows about the Golden Bay," said Fraser shortly.

"There was one chap I know about, who didn't. Missed it altogether, although he was looking for it."

"He must have been a perishing bargee," exclaimed Fraser, getting roused at length. "However, as I was saying . . ."

"No, No! He was a real sea-going skipper. Name of Drake—" ("not a Scouser I'll wager" in a growl from Fraser). Hung about in the open and lost his anchors."

That, as far as I was concerned, was the end of the conference; for I had to abandon contemplation of those wide themes at that point, in deference to the narrower urgencies of our local 'buses. But I heard afterwards that the deliberations had continued to the limits imposed by the licensing laws, and had even been prolonged in the street afterwards. Fraser, after one or two bellicose passages, had eventually parted from the mystery man as from a brother, and had even admitted later (perhaps to justify his temporary eclipse) that they had been in the company of a remarkable man who had certainly knocked about a bit. That, from such a quarter, was as good as a diploma.

The next time I called in the Lord Rodney, things were quiet, and most of the experts, Fraser among them, were about their lawful occasions on the high seas; so I got no further than Joe's serving-hatch. Talk of absent friends recalled the historic evening when a hero had held Fraser to a draw on his home ground. "You mean Alf Sanders," said Joe. "He's a door-to-door salesman, and to the best of my belief he's never been further than Menai Bridge in his life. Why the sight of a toy boat in a shop window would make him sea-sick."

"Surely you don't mean he was only pulling old Jock's leg all that time? Wait a bit though. I remember now. He definitely mentioned his ticket."

"Oh, that!" said Joe with a laugh. "Poor old Alf! By this time he must have read himself half-way through the Free Library."

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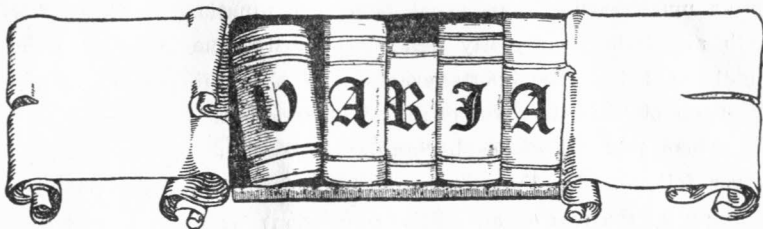
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THE School received a visit from Alderman W. E. Power, Chairman of the Governors, on the afternoon of Thursday, May 10th. The occasion was connected with the impending retirement of the Headmaster, who, in company with the Chairman, visited several forms. Alderman Power reminded his hearers of the circumstances which led to the foundation of Birkenhead Institute, and, paying tribute to its record, emphasized in particular notable successes won by its pupils during Mr. Jones's régime.

\* \* \*

The holiday awarded to the School in recognition of the Annual Prizegiving held in the Technical College last term, was taken on Friday, May 4th. Not only did this provide a welcome break in a long term, but it coincided with a day of unbroken and brilliant sunshine, enabling all our members to feel that summer was indeed at hand.

\* \* \*

The presence of two gentlemen, armed with note-books and pencils, in our corridors on Tuesday, May 8th, provided a neat practical demonstration to our history candidates that the spirit of Pitt's audit still haunts the land. This was an auditors' check of our equipment and furniture. As these genial officials satisfied themselves that no nefarious persons had made away with the Physics Laboratory, the entrance hall mat, or the portrait of Lord Nelson, since their last visit, our various properties were neatly ticked off, and our probity triumphantly confirmed.

\* \* \*

While in recent years Staff and pupils (for once) shared the same views about General Certificate Examinations coming too early in the Summer Term, this time the Ordinary Level papers at least returned to the July days formerly occupied by the old School Certificate. This made it essential to fix the date of the Annual Athletic



Sports much earlier than usual, since examinations occupied the sixth and fifth forms pretty well continuously from June 11 to the middle of July. The Sports events were therefore run off on the afternoon of Thursday, June 7th. A further consequence was that the School terminal exams beginning on Wednesday, June 4th, no longer followed the Joint Matriculation Board's (like the populace bringing up the rear to an official procession) but were in fact concluded before the curtain fell at the end of that gripping drama called the General Certificate.

\* \* \*

An old Instonian, Mr. J. Edward Leeman, was ordained deacon by the Bishop of London in St. Pauls Cathedral on Trinity Sunday, May 27th. He was trained at the Brotherhood of St. Paul at Fakenham in Norfolk, and has already seen some service in the Huron Diocese of Ontario. Instonians will remember Mr. Leeman as a capable musician, who frequently accompanied the singing at prayers. After leaving the School, he was for a time Organist and Choirmaster at Thurston Parish Church.

\* \* \*

The *Visor* places on record, with genuine pride in the greatness of his achievement, the elevation of the School's former pupil Professor Sir Henry Cohen to the peerage. The barony which has now been conferred upon Sir Henry was announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours published on May 31st. Thus, one more well-deserved honour is added to the impressive structure of Sir Henry's career, which has been watched with such deep pleasure by the members of his old School, compassing as it has done the Professorship of Medicine at Liverpool University, his Knighthood, and more recently the freedom of the Borough of Birkenhead.

\* \* \*

The installation of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother as Chancellor of the University of London means that on favoured occasions students newly graduated there actually receive their diplomas from royal hands. This honour fell to Old Instonian W. B. Coen of University College, Hull, when he took his B.Sc. degree (London) at the graduation ceremony in the Royal Albert Hall. Mr. Coen now holds an appointment with the famous aircraft company of A. V. Roe.

In the Birkenhead Schools Cross Country Championships, held at Park High School at the beginning of this term, the School achieved an excellent result by finishing second, Rock Ferry High School coming first. The Institute indeed had the honour of providing the first man home in the Senior Event, on which we congratulate the School's captain, Lee. Pinning came in eleventh and P. G. Evans thirteenth, In the Junior Event, Forrester coming in ninth, was the most successful of our entries.

\* \* \*

We are proud to record the gazetting of Lieutenant J. D. Baker, R.N., to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. After leaving the Institute he joined the Fleet Air Arm at the age of 18 and, after gaining his commission, saw active service in Korea. His promotion to his new rank at the age of 30 makes him one of the youngest Lieutenant Commanders in the Royal Navy. This success should be of great interest to our present boys, since Commander Baker trained with 400 Squadron A.T.C. Cadets in the years immediately succeeding his school days.

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HOUSE NOTES			

### ATKIN.

**T**HIS year Atkin has done well in sporting activities and unsatisfactorily on the academic side of School life. Having won the Rugby competition, the House tied with Westminster for first place as a result of the Cricket matches. The senior team won all three games, but the junior team managed to win only one game. The Cross-country runs also resulted in a tie for first place with Westminster. This means that Atkin has won the event every year since 1948. Lee was first home in the senior run, and later proved to be Victor Ludorum in the Athletic Sports. The Sports have been won for five successive years by Westminster (1928—1932) and Stitt (1946—1950), but Atkin is the only House to have won for six successive years (1951—1956).

Despite these successes Atkin has only a narrow lead in the Coronation Cup competition because of dismal failure in the Chess competition and in the winter examinations. Unfortunately, the only points still to be awarded will be based on the summer examinations, and these may well cost Atkin the leading position.

K.W.J.

### STITT,

**A**T the beginning of this term Stitt's prospects for the Coronation Cup looked fairly bright. Since then, however, things have gone badly for the House, so that now there is only a slight chance of tying for first place.

Since the last edition of the *Visor* the competitions decided are the Cross Country, Cricket, and Athletics. In the Cross Country Runs held last term Stitt gained 3rd position after Atkin and Westminster. Our final place of 3rd in Cricket was made worse by a dis-

## THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH . . .

There have been a good many changes in our way of life since the beginning of the century. In warfare, the possibility of complete annihilation is now a stark reality; transport is now spoken of in terms of hundreds of miles per hour; the modern way of life is altogether estranged from the conception of our ancestors. If we may believe G. B. Shaw it seems that the old order may return in the shape of a stone age. But whatever changes may ensue, however much our civilization may undergo change, one thing at least is certain: that, at NIXON'S OF BIRKENHEAD, we may be assured of receiving the very best quality and service.

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mal display of batting against Atkin. After having been set 32 runs to win, Stitt could only struggle to 27/7. A distinct improvement was noticed in the following games against Westminster and Tate, both of whom were defeated convincingly. Unfortunately the Juniors could win only one of their games, that against Tate, and so Stitt finished 3rd position. The Athletics brought disaster to Stitt, who after a struggle with Westminster, were finally compelled to take last place.

Thus, out of the sporting activities of the School, Stitt can claim 3rd place in Cricket and the Cross Country, and last place in Rugby and Athletics. This amounts to 4 points out of a possible 24—not a very heartening result.

#### TATE.

THE result of the Inter-House Rugby is that Tate gained second place to Atkin, after winning the games against Stitt and Westminster and losing that against Atkin. It was pleasing to see the enthusiasm of all the players, and they all gave of their best.

Last term also saw the running of the Cross-country races in which quite a number of the boys from this House decided to walk or even stop at times. A number of boys ran well, but this is a team event, and every boy must give of his best if the House is to benefit.

Cricket does not appear to be a game which inspires Tate boys to give of their best. Few of those chosen to play showed any interest, and the rest seemed to take their being chosen to represent their House at Cricket as some sort of severe punishment.

The Athletic Sports seemed to bring back to the Tate House boys some of the enthusiasm shown in the Rugby games. The House came second to Atkin, a result which was a pleasant surprise to us all, and we must thank those who took part whether they gained a high or a low position in their event for their efforts; all helped the final result.

This has not been a very good year for the House, either on the sports field or in the classroom, but the rugby and athletics showed what the House can do if it tries, and a little more House spirit and enthusiasm in all events might well see us in a much better position next year.

T.R.S.

## WESTMINSTER.

**A**T the time of writing the last House notes, only the Chess results were known, and the results since then are as follows:—

**Rugby.** The House won the first game against Stitt by 6 pts. to nil, but went on to lose by 32—3 against Atkin, and by 20—8 against Tate. Lythgoe, Sampson, and Harris played well in all three games. The House, therefore, finished third in Rugby.

**Cross-Country.** The Junior Race was won by W. Johnson of Westminster, with K. D. Humphries, also in Westminster, in second place. Jones, D. D. finished second in the Intermediate race. The House won both the Junior and Intermediate races, and had a lead of 26 points after these two events, but the Seniors were unable to hold on to this lead, and Atkin managed to make up this deficit, with the result that Westminster and Atkin tied for first place.

**Marksheet.** The Christmas Marksheet was won by Stitt, Westminster were second, and Atkin third.

**Athletics.** The House finished third in Athletics. Most of the points obtained were gained by the Juniors, Steedman (1A), McCarter (2A), and D. D. Jones (3B) putting up the best individual performances. The first form relay of Cram, Humphries, Capstick, and Steedman, won their events, as also did the third form relay of Phipps, Hadfield, Chesworth, and D. D. Jones.

**Cricket.** The Seniors beat Tate, but lost the two remaining games against Stitt and Atkin. The Juniors, however, came to the rescue, and won all three games, so that Westminster and Atkin tied for first place.

The position in the Coronation Cup is that Atkin have 25 pts., Westminster 21, Stitt 16 pts., and Tate 10 pts., so that, if the House is to win the Coronation Cup, it must make up the leeway of 5 points in the Summer Marksheet.

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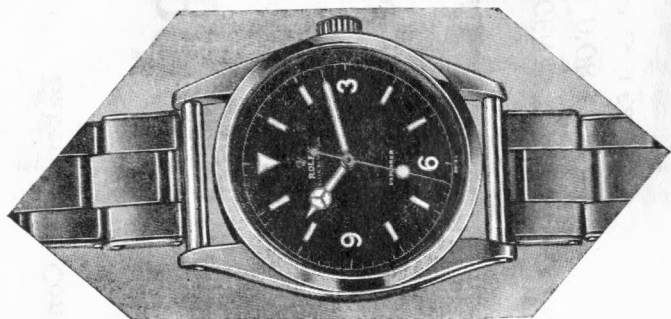
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## Form Notes

6S.

SINCE the last time you heard from us, many and varied happenings have befallen us, not the least being the transfer, for a signed picture of Davy Crockett, of the famous Singing Idiot to Shell.

All (?) our members performed with their usual proficiency on Sports Day, but I am afraid that their thunder was stolen by the Arts chap who swept all before him (including hurdles) with an extremely spectacular display.

Some of you may have happened to read 6A's notes in last term's *Visor*. If you were one of these unfortunate beings, all I can say is that, as you waded through a few sentences of malice and falsehood, you may have been rewarded with a laugh at the style of that ungrammatical twaddler.

Among the more notable events during the term is that one of us had his hair cut (I will leave you to guess which one) and that Ch\*rl\*\* now has a companion to accompany him on tours of such well-known beauty spots as Freshfield sand-dunes.

We are all now temporary prefects ruling the School with an iron hand. This, however, does not seem to have any effect, as most of the Lower School have wooden heads.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Jones for teaching us so many "tricks" of the chemical trade, and wish him a long and happy retirement.

P.J.

5A.

OUR first article has been contributed by Buckland-Evers and is entitled

### BIRD SONGS.

Whether it is the musical and strong note of the wren or the raucous note of the gulls that you hear, you cannot help being charmed either by the beauty and quality of the wren's song or by the air of mystery which pervades the wild music of all the gulls. When the winter nights are becoming shorter, you gradually become aware that there is some sound that you remember, and you realise that it is the blackbird, singing to ward off any other bird that dares to encroach upon his territory. In the little group of elms next to their old nests, as the bell-ringer competes with them to summon the church, the rooks can now be heard bustling about repairing the villagers to church.

As the season progresses, and the migrants begin to sing, the morning chorus becomes stronger, and the cuckoo makes us realise that summer is really here, as he goes about his solitary plunder with his call echoing across the country, making a contrast with all the typical music of grasshoppers and the bird songs of a hot summer day. The heat of summer seems to subdue the birds and their songs. As the warmth of summer rises from the ponds and waterways of the country, and the leaves turn to beautiful shades of brown, the wild duck and geese gradually start flying in from the vast ice-packs, until, when the ground is covered with its first thin layer of frozen snow, the small flocks give way to charging battalions of geese, all surging forward in V formations to escape the extreme cold of Scandinavia. Their song, as they sweep low over the mud-flats with the peregrine swooping above them, brings all the mystery of these birds to our shores. Throughout the year you can be charmed by the beauty of our bird songs, because even during the winter we still can hear the notes of the robin.

We continue with an article by McLoughlin entitled

#### MY VISIT TO A FIRE STATION.

Some time ago I visited the Fire-station at the junction of Whetstone Lane and Borough Road. My first thought was to inspect a fire-engine. These large, red machines, capable of very high speeds, are fitted with all the best equipment including long ladders, hoses, and the engine. The men who ride upon the vehicle are worthy of the service they perform. Out in the yard behind the station there is a tall building which has openings at different heights to represent windows. From different heights in the tower men must bring down a person in order to practise. A fireman's kit consists of dark-blue tunic, thick gum-boots, a brass helmet, and an axe. The firemen come down to the engine from upstairs by sliding down a steel pole, which runs through a circular hole in the floor.

Next I visited the radio-room where there was a man in charge of the telephones and radio. In front of him was the alarm bell. When pressed, it starts a series of electric bells ringing, and the firemen can be ready and on their way to the fire in two minutes. Each machine has a different name; for example, "Mary Mercer" and "Ald. Halligan." I was then given a lecture on the foolishness of ringing an alarm bell without due cause. Besides putting out fires, firemen rescue animals and humans in distress, and do a useful job of work.

We conclude with an article by Gilchrist who speaks of the joys of

### FISHING.

I often go fishing to a little pond just off the Thingwall road, where I can catch roach, carp, or rudd. There are three kinds of angling: coarse-fishing, fly-fishing, and lastly sea-fishing. I prefer coarse-fishing myself because fly-fishing is too expensive and sea-fishing too rough. Although I prefer fresh-water fishing I often go to New Brighton where there is a variety of fish such as fluke, flounder, whiting, and hoards of eels. Although eels are slimy and unattractive, an eel of three pounds can snap a tackle of ten pounds' breaking strain, and, when hooked, does not give in without a fight.

In my opinion, carp are the finest pond fish. Their bodies are well shaped and are a beautiful golden colour. They cannot resist a piece of cheese or a maggot, and these baits are often their downfall. They are wary fish, unlike the greedy rudd and roach, who will take almost any sort of bait, and when caught these too can give the angler a long tussle. A fishing outfit is not very dear, and one can add to one's collection as time goes on. Compared with the pleasures derived from fishing, the expense involved is negligible.

### 5B.

**W**E start with some Form notes by K. L. Gray and G. B. Williams: The form has once again been called upon to write some form notes, and this is the result. This term, the menace of the G.C.E., like that of the hydrogen bomb, has become ominously greater, causing a certain air of tension in the form. This, however, has been somewhat relieved by the manufacture of various missiles which are then projected, with the force of one arm-power, in the direction of our neighbours. It has been suggested, at this point, that we should write about our sportsmen. Five of our boys did excellently in the Inter-School Cross-country run, and the form's duties to the Cricket XI's have not been neglected, despite the fact that we have not done a great deal of Cricket this term. The Sports fans cannot indeed be neglected, because we frequently hear their discussions about cricket and cricketers. The problem which arises in this term is that of careers. Not many boys still remain to be provided with careers, thanks to the Headmaster's appreciated efforts. Most of us have secured a position in the world of Business into which we must venture this summer.

Next we have an article by A. Copeland, who speaks of the art or

### CYCLE TOURING.

Cycle-touring may not appeal to everyone, but a great many people enjoy this type of holiday. There are two types of tourists: the first, who travel by way of the Youth Hostels or the Cyclists' Touring Club; the second, who camp in their own tents and go where they please. The latter way is the more difficult, and it is necessary to minimize the weight to be carried. The bicycle has to carry all the equipment, and accordingly must be in good condition and should be equipped with panniers and saddlebag. The tent should be waterproof and light, and aluminium cooking utensils are the best in order to save weight. A good tool kit and a good map are essential, and, if the district is hilly or mountainous, like the Lake District or Wales, good gears are essential. Youth hostelling is the easy way of cycle-touring, but I prefer the other way, despite its difficulties.

We conclude with an interesting article by Carr upon

### RAILWAYS.

James Watt, in improving his steam engine, prompted others to adapt this power to pull a train along a metal track. Richard Trevithick was the first to build a locomotive with smooth wheels and running on cast-iron rails. In the year 1812, John Blenkinsop invented the track with iron cogs which engaged a bigger cog, driven by gears, aboard the locomotive. This is now used only on mountain railways, where there are steep gradients. By 1825, steam locomotives had developed considerably, and one of the early engines was the famous "Puffing Billy." In 1825, the first public railway in the world, for the conveyance of merchandise and passengers, was opened between Stockton and Darlington. In 1829 George Stephenson built the celebrated "Rocket," which was for use on the Liverpool and Manchester railway, opened in 1830. From these early efforts we get the great new express trains of to-day, like the "Flying Scotsman" and the "Royal Scot." A new French train has reached the speed of 205 miles an hour.

**M**cTEAR comments on the form's activities:—

The Summer term is traditionally the longest of the three as well as, meteorologically speaking, the most pleasant—is it not the season of the athletic sports and the flashing willow blade, the era of the weekly migration to the cool waters of Byrne Avenue? It is indeed; but that is not all. For the term has a sting to its tail which casts a blight on all these many activities; need it be added that the sting lies in the promotion examinations? Nevertheless the distance of the July ordeal is sufficient to ward off the gloom from most members of the form. On the one hand, the irrepressible “Butch” Blackwell has figured on several occasions in the 1st XI., while Kay, T. Harris, and Greaves have graced the 2nd XI.; and several others of us have starred in senior House matches. On the other hand, we have all indulged with relish in the Tuesday afternoon outings to the baths, and improved our strokes considerably thereby, as well as cooling our fevered brains after a struggle with Physics. In the academic realm, the old order changeth not, and so there is nothing to record. The form as a whole (to quote the voice of authority) “did very well” in the matter of *Visor* sales, but only “reasonably well” in contributing to the sports fund. It is with regret that we note the absence of Gawne in hospital, but we send him our best wishes. Noel, who was also absent for a good time, is now happily in our midst once more. For a long term these observations are rather meagre, but what else can be said? To discourse on the old theme of lines, detentions, and everlasting tests, would be to draw the curtain concealing the 4A underworld; this your chronicler declines to do. But he concludes with an optimistic tip—these notes will be under a new heading next term; if you wish to follow the form's doings in future, buy a *Visor* and read all about 5A.

Next, Duggan discusses

#### THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF TELEVISION.

Television was first started in the thirties, with a small transmitter serving part of London around Alexandra Palace, affectionately known as “Ally Pally.” Since that time it has become obvious that television is here to stay; so we must accept it and try to overlook or rectify its disadvantages.

One great disadvantage is that it often interferes with the “swotting” of schoolboys and students, since it occupies the very part of the night which they need to do their homework and revision.

Has the reader ever tried to do his homework in the kitchen while the "Billy Cotton Band Show" is blazing on the television in the dining-room? If one goes upstairs to do one's homework, one usually finds Roger sitting up there listening to the "Goon Show" on a battery radio set. One way out is to sabotage the set (applies to experienced physicists only!), and another is to repair with all speed to the nearest relative's house, preferably one without a tele.

Other disadvantages are that it detracts from the numbers of spectators of football and cricket matches; prevents the family going out in the evening (this is surprising when one thinks of the usual evening programme). it causes strife amongst the family when Mother wants "Ask Pickles" on B.B.C., and Father wants "Take your Pick" on I.T.A., and it disrupts the family's mealtimes, especially when "Saturday Night Out" comes on early.

The advantages of having a television set are numerous, and, apart from the joy Mother derives from sneering at Mrs. Jones, who hasn't a set, it brings interest as well as laughter into the home. Such programmes as "Science Review," "Up to Date," and "Animal, Vegetable, Mineral" are extremely interesting to me and to many others. Another advantage is that television keeps many of the older children, who have no homework to worry about, off the streets, where they would probably get themselves into trouble. A television set means an end, too, to the loneliness of old people, and is especially valuable in winter, when they cannot go out.

A possible conclusion would be that television is a nuisance, but my conclusion is—**Television is smashin'.**

Finally, Moore tells us about

### **BREEDING BUDGERIGARS.**

Once you have put your birds in their breeding aviary or cage, you should be waiting for the first egg. If there is no sign of moulting about the birds, the cock is full of vitality, and the hen has deep-brown ceres, then you will know that they are in condition. They should take an interest in the nest boxes almost at once. When the hen is seen entering the nest-box, eggs should be expected within about a week or ten days. The incubation of the egg takes about 17 days. The average clutch consists of 4 to 6 eggs, and there is a day's interval between the laying of one egg and the next. When the eggs are hatched, the eldest nestlings may be as much as twelve days older than the youngest. Budgerigars do not seem to mind having their nests inspected, but it is wise for only an experienced breeder to do this.



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**LARGEST STOCK IN THE NORTH.**

TO open we have chosen Nelson's imaginative description of

### THE MAN OF THE FUTURE.

Have you ever thought about the physical changes which are likely to occur in man during the next million years or so? Undoubtedly by that time the human body will have undergone great changes. Let us now picture this man of 1,001,956.

The arms and hands will probably have become thin and undersized, since, as a result of mechanical aids, nobody will have to use much physical energy, although the thumb and index-finger of the right hand will be large and muscle-bound, as a result of much exercise in pressing buttons.

Now the legs: these will also have changed in small, thin, and weak appendages. The stomach will have outgrown the chest, and, as a result, the trunk will be too heavy for the legs. In consequence, everybody will go speeding around in atom-propelled bath-chairs. As a result of too much soft food, nobody will possess any teeth, and the gums will probably be covered for their protection.

And there we have him—the man of the future. What a man! Pardon me; did I say “man”?

We continue with Ward's account of

### A RIDE TO LLANGOLLEN.

When you get to Llangollen after four hours in the saddle, you just flop down to have a rest. The reason for your having a rest is that it is roughly thirty miles of hills to Llangollen and that often you have to struggle with high winds, but in the end the trip is worth the exertion, because Llangollen is a town with fine hills all round it. Also the River Dee flows through it, and at one or two places it is deep enough to swim in. The water is very clear, and you just lie on your back in the rapids and are carried down to the deeper water.

The trip home takes only three hours, as the way is mostly downhill, but you will probably stop at Two Mills, a favourite stopping place for cyclists, so that on a busy day hundreds of cyclists pull up there for refreshments.

Lamb appears to be rather cynical on the subject of

### ON HOLIDAY IN RHYL.

If you decide to spend a holiday at Rhyl, the first thing you must think about is where you are to stay. First, one thinks of boarding-houses, and those in Rhyl are not owned by miserly, grasping, old landladies, but mainly by middle-aged men with thousands of pounds.

Second come the caravan sites, which are situated just outside the town. Immense areas of fields are dotted, or I should say completely covered, with big caravans, small caravans, cream caravans, red caravans, old caravans, new caravans, and any kind of caravan you can conjure up in your imagination. Outside any of these caravans may be seen mother doing the washing (on holiday!), father sound asleep in a deck-chair, brother playing football and endeavouring to break every window of every caravan, and, last of all, sister getting a beautiful golden tan ("to show all the girls when we go home"),

Then come the bungalows, but we will exclude those because they are just fixed caravans,

When you have settled on your place of abode, you can plan your entertainments, and you have plenty of choice. First, there is a fun-fair which has all that can be expected of such a place. Next, in the main street of Rhyl are three cinemas, and on the front there are three or four theatres and a circus. A few miles away, just outside Abergelle, stands Gwyrch Castle to which you may pay a visit. In the castle are waxworks and a museum as well as a marble staircase of which the proprietors are very proud. From the lofty battlements you can take fine photographs of the castle and surroundings.

Incidentally, I am not spending my holidays at Rhyl this year.

### 3A.

**W**E start with an article by A. Carberry entitled  
**THE ASCENT OF CADER IDRIS.**

"Cader's Seat," or Cader Idris, was attacked and conquered by twenty members of the Merseyside Youth Assembly Camp in August, 1956, I being the fourth member to reach the summit. Cader Idris is 2,927 feet above sea level. We started the ascent at one o'clock. After half an hour we were climbing up a very steep path, which is used for 99 per cent. of the year only by sheep. After crossing a dam made of hewn squares of granite, we came to rock. At about three hundred and fifty feet we were surprised to see sheep leap up out of the bracken and run away. At one and a half thousand feet we were well used to climbing a succession of stone ridges which stretched before us. We climbed the last ridge and saw the summit at half-past-two. The descent was much easier than the ascent. We walked down a ridge leading to "Foxes' Path," which consisted of stones which resembled the pebbles on a beach, and this led us to a small lake. From here we followed the advice of the guide "Dig your heels in and slide!" and we all reached the

bottom, a descent of 1,500 feet, in about two minutes. By four o'clock we had left Cader Idris behind, and were sitting in a bus heading for camp and tea.

Next we have an article by Kellett on the subject of

### **BOX HILL.**

Whilst we were on our holidays in the south, we paid a visit to Box Hill in Surrey. Box Hill, whose summit is six hundred feet above sea level, is without doubt the best-known and most popular hill on the North Downs. It takes its name from the box trees which are said to have been planted there during the thirteenth century. The public owe the privilege of using the Hill as a pleasure resort to the generosity of the late Leopold Solomons, who bought the property from a peer and gave it to the nation.

The view from the summit is very extensive and, looking towards the South, you can see the South Downs in the distance whilst Reigate and Leigh are amongst the towns also plainly visible. The River Mole, running through Betchworth Park, can easily be traced up to Dorking and, looking South-west, you can see the prominent landmark of Leith Hill tower.

We conclude with an article by D. Chessworth, entitled

### **WINDSOR CASTLE.**

Access to the castle is gained by passing through the Henry VIII. gateway, which was built by him to replace a more simple drawbridge. The room above the gateway served as a courthouse in which poachers were tried. To this day, the governor has power to deal with offenders inside the castle walls. The most ancient part of the castle to which the public are admitted is Burflur Tower which still retains its ancient character. In the basement is the guardroom. This room has chalk walls about 12½ inches thick with loopholes and recesses. In the face of the tower there is a rallyport, which runs under the ditch. Nobody knows where the original exit is. Also in the castle is a figure on horseback completely clad in armour. This is the King's champion, and he is depicted throwing down a gauntlet. There are also many weapons, including a set of swords of English Kings from James I. The floor of the chapel in St. George's Tower is paved with black and white marble squares, and beneath it is the sealed vault containing the remains of Henry VIII., Jane Seymour, Charles I., and one of Queen Anne's daughters.

DAWSON contributes an article on

### SLATE MINES.

Some time ago I went on a visit to the Llechwedd slate mine at Blaenau Ffestiniog. When we arrived, we were greeted by a foreman, who then took us to a small hut where we were given a safety helmet fitted with a large miner's lamp at the front. We then walked down a tunnel, with a gradient of one-in-seven, which led down to "Cavern A." This is a huge cave, where all the many other tunnels meet, and in which the slate is loaded into trucks to be pulled up to the surface. As one cavern is worked out, another one is made below it. At Llechwedd they have now got down as far as "Cavern J." We then went down another of the tunnels and came to the "face," where two miners were busy prising from the rock a huge block of slate. This was then split by drilling a hole in the top and hammering steel wedges into it. After this the slabs are taken to the surface and split into a slab an eighth of an inch thick. This thin slab is then chopped into rectangular slates by a machine with blades like a giant lawn-mower. The finished products are carefully graded and sent, by lorry, to the wholesalers. Over half the slate mined is useless, and much is wasted. But now some of it is being used for road metalling, and, when ground, some is even used as a base for face powder.

Pulford is another who visited

### SPEKE AIR DISPLAY.

On Whit Monday I went to Speke airport to see an air display. We arrived just in time to see the first event, which was a flight by a vintage aircraft. This craft flew across the aerodrome, raising itself to a height of forty feet. Next came a display by a French mini-jet, the smallest jet in the world, with an amazing rate of vertical climb. Then M. Leo Valentin thrilled the crowd with a delayed action parachute drop. He dropped from an aeroplane for twenty seconds before pulling the rip-cord on the parachute. Two other men had a parachute race, the object being to drop as near as possible to a target in the centre of the airfield. Following this were fly-pasts by various types of jet aircraft. During one of these, I went into one of the hangars to see how the course of an aircraft is plotted and how an enemy aircraft is shown. Unfortunately, on

his second jump, M. Valentin's wings broke, both parachutes failed to open, and the crowd saw him fall into a neighbouring field. Undaunted by this, however, a Yugoslav hung by his teeth from a ladder suspended beneath a flying aircraft. The display ended with a flight by three "Austers."

Matthews shows his knowledge of

#### **TROTTERS AND PACERS.**

Trotting is a popular sport, and in trotting races the horse pulls a light two-wheeled carriage, with pneumatic tyres, called a sulky, which weighs only 25lbs. Races are run in heats, and the horse has to win three heats to be the final winner. There are two distinct types of Trotting. A horse doing the "trot proper" strikes the ground with its off-foreleg and near hindleg at the same time. It is said to be pacing when the "legs of a side are in unison," rather like those of riders on a tandem. Pacers wear a special leg harness called a "hooplee" to prevent them from breaking their gait. To correct or improve a horse's stride, the trainer alters the weight of the horseshoe by means of a weighted attachment screwed into the upper part of the hoof. Races are usually held on a cinder track of half a mile or a mile. How fast can a trotter go? In Britain a mare called Lady Combermere trotted 25 miles in less than an hour. She did it with a minute to spare, and her feat, which won her £10,000, has never been equalled.

**K. ELLIOT**

2A.

#### **WRITING.**

Not so very long ago writing was considered to be an art of learned men, but to-day everybody can write. Writing really started in the Stone Age with cave men chipping rough pictures on the walls of a cave. There are still some examples of these left to-day. Man soon became tired of chipping, and discovered that he could write in soft clay with much less force. The clay would then dry, leaving a hard tablet with the writing firmly fixed on it. He was still not satisfied. A long time later, after the discovery of papyrus, he found that his finger after being dipped in a fruit juice, would leave a mark. He then found that by using the quill of a feather, sharpened to a point, his writing was much more compact and neat. Another important discovery was made by a man who found that his wet finger left a mark on the stone. Why, then, should he not carve letters and stain them and then turn them on paper, leaving the print? This was the start of printing. The most modern method of writing is to use a fountain pen, which maintains a continual flow of ink.



We are indebted to Strutt for his article on

### **PUFFINS.**

Puffins are seen in certain parts of the coast all the year round, although most of them come to this country only for the summer. One of the places at which they can be seen is Puffin Island, situated off the coast of Wales near Anglesey. They arrive in vast numbers in April or May, and settle down to breed. Puffins, however, do not build a nest but make a burrow, partly by digging with their beaks, partly by scraping with their feet. At the end of the burrow the female puffin lays a single egg. Because they live on sea creatures such as small fish and crabs, they are very skilful divers and swimmers. Their beaks are very large and brightly coloured during the summer; but this surface covering peels off and, through the winter, their beaks become more moderate in size and duller in colour. Altogether, the puffin is one of nature's most interesting birds.

Finally, an article by J. Hales describing

### **A VISIT TO NOTTINGHAM CASTLE.**

During the last holidays I went to Nottingham to see my auntie. While we were there, we went to see the famous Nottingham Castle. The first thing that we saw was the statue of that most famous outlaw, Robin Hood. This statue was holding a bow and arrow and was situated outside the walls. Inside the castle we were struck by the very large and famous paintings which hung on the walls. Suits of armour lined the corridor which led to a small museum. In this museum were the magnificent coat of arms of the castle and curious penny-farthing bicycles. In addition to these there were the clothes of many servants of that time. In another room were beautiful stagecoaches which were covered with fascinating carvings of people. I ended my journey by going into the grounds, and there I saw, let into the earth, wire netting. Beneath this was a deep pit with rings let into the wall. This was one of the very old dungeons. We left the castle after a very interesting visit, and I was only sorry not to have been able to see Sherwood Forest, which was only a few miles away.

### **2B.**

**C**ROFT and Stewart both contributed articles on the same subject, and we have combined their accounts to produce this version of

### **A VISIT TO SPEKE AIR PAGEANT.**

On Whit Monday last I visited Speke Airport to see the International Air Pageant. The day was bright and sunny, and ideal for the purpose. As this was the first air display I had ever visited, naturally I was greatly excited.

The first of the seventeen items on the programme was the aerobatics of a pioneer aircraft, a 1910 biplane. Although very old, this "pioneer of the air" could do some very remarkable stunts, such as looping the loop and going into a steep dive and coming out at the very last moment. Next came the Beverley freight-carrier, which could be loaded with a five hundredweight van and two single-decker buses, each carrying thirty-eight people. After that we saw a "mini-jet" perform spectacular aerobatics. Jeff Quill performed aerobatics in a Spitfire, which was one of the most popular planes at the show. Then Leo Valentin, a French parachutist, wearing wooden wings, made a jump from an aeroplane. As he came out of the plane, one of his wings caught the fuselage and splintered. He pulled the rip-cord of his parachute, which failed to open properly, and he fell from 8,500 feet to his death.

McLaren gives us a brief account of a world title.

#### **SPEED.**

This year the world speed record was regained by Great Britain at a speed of 1,132 m.p.h. The plane it was achieved in was a supersonic research aircraft of the Fairey Aviation Company, the Fairey Delta 2, or FD2. The pilot was Peter Twiss, the Fairey Aviation Company's second chief test pilot. Peter Twiss, as it happens, is married to my father's sister. This makes him my uncle.

Allsopp writes about

#### **UNDERWATER SWIMMING.**

Underwater swimming, frogman style, has now become a popular sport, partly as a result of television. The equipment needed consists of a face-mask, a nose-clip, oxygen bottles and flippers; or, if you can't afford oxygen bottles, a breathing-tube will do. Unless you are using a breathing tube, it is not necessary to be able to swim really well. Flippers are necessary to keep below the surface. The record depth for skin-diving is 124 feet. Using an oxygen mask you can stay down for over half an hour.

We conclude with an article by Powell on

#### **BIRD WATCHING.**

During the Whit holidays I frequently went with some of my friends to study young birds in the nest. One day we found a hedge sparrow's nest containing young, and after we had been watching for some time we saw one youngster fall out, and so we went up to the hedge and replaced the bird in the nest. After this, we went to a large field and found a sky lark's nest near a stream. Inside it we saw three birds and one unhatched egg. The three

birds had a lot of fluff, and their wings were well developed, and so we thought there must be something wrong with the egg for it to remain unhatched. However, we left the nest as it was, and went away. When we returned to the nest the following day, we found that the egg had been removed some distance from the nest. One day we found a robin's nest with six eggs in. Next day, when we went back, we found that there were only two eggs left, and later on, in the afternoon, we saw that all the eggs had gone and that some one had destroyed the nest. Down the Roman Road, which is about 200 yards from my home, there is a large tree overhanging the road, and we have heard squeaks coming from a hole in one of the highest branches, but in spite of careful observation we have not found out what kind of bird has nested there.

#### IA.

**W**E begin with an account by S. Glynn of

#### A VISIT TO HERMANN'S DENKMAL (MONUMENT).

When I used to live in Detmold in Germany, I went to visit the memorial to Hermann or Arminius, one of the most famous statues in the country. The tower on which the statue of Hermann stands is situated upon a very high hill, completely covered with pine woods. The story says that Hermann was a Viking who lived in the valley of Detmold many hundreds of years ago. He made himself a legendary hero by heroically defending the valley of Detmold against many would-be invaders. The statue is tall and massive and many times larger than life-size. It is made of bronze which has turned green with age and rough weather. His helmet, instead of being horned like most Viking helmets, is fitted with a pair of wings at the sides. People are allowed to enter the tower and to climb the hundred feet to the balcony at the top, just beneath the feet of the statue.

We continue with F. Gibson's description of

#### BIDSTON HILL.

Bidston Hill to-day is like a very large park, where many people come to have picnics. It is a very beautiful place with plenty of trees and wild life. A century ago, it used to be used as a sort of signalling station for the rich merchants of Liverpool. On top of the hill there used to be a row of flagpoles, the holes for which can still be seen to-day. When a ship was sighted, the flag of the merchant to whom it belonged was hoisted on the flagpole, so that the merchant could be at the docks to receive the ship. There is also a windmill, which is now unused. Many years ago, however, farmers used to bring their grain to be ground here. A road for carts once

led up to it. Now there is a modern road which cuts the hill in half, separating the hill from the "Pine Woods." The road has rocky banks on either side and, when the road was being built, this rock had to be blasted away with explosives. The two white domes of the observatory are prominent land marks. Inside the observatory are some of the most sensitive and marvellous instruments in the world.

Finally, R. Proctor describes for our benefit

### **AN EVENTFUL TRIP TO LONDON.**

I attend a choir in Oxtou. The choirmaster received a letter from the organist of Westminster Abbey asking whether the whole choir would like to go to London for a week-end in order to see their choir. We set out on a Saturday a month later, and, after an uneventful journey, arrived at our hotel near Tottenham Court Road. In the afternoon, we went sight-seeing, some of the choir going to football matches, and some friends and I visiting the Tower of London. We were shown around this famous tower by a warder, and we saw amongst other things, the crown jewels. Next morning we visited Westminster Abbey, and in the afternoon went to St. Paul's Cathedral. After the service we went to the station to find our train, and, when we did find it, we discovered that no seats had been reserved. Therefore, we had to make the journey seated at the rear of the train on some boxes of flowers from Covent Garden. This was most uncomfortable, but, on top of this, the locomotive had a leaking valve, and we had to have two engines from Rugby, which made us 56 minutes late.

### **IB.**

**O**UR first article is by Allan and is entitled

### **A HOLIDAY ON THE RIVER.**

This year for our holidays we hired a forty-foot long motor cruiser, on which we were to eat, sleep, and make our home for a week. We started at Tewkesbury, going first up the River Avon. We had been cruising for about half an hour, when we thought we would stop and tie up to get some food. My father steered towards the bank, and, as soon as we got within five yards of it, a shudder went through the boat—we were stuck in the mud. After trying in vain to get us out of the mud, my father went astern in the small boat we towed behind, found a telephone box, and phoned the owners, who came at about eight o'clock and soon had us free. Then we went on our way, but soon after we had to stop as we were not allowed to proceed after a certain hour.

Next day we went to the end of the navigable river, having our first two locks, the second of which we had to operate by ourselves. That took us all day, and so the following day we went right back and started up the River Severn. We reached Upton on Severn that evening and stayed there for the night. The next morning we started off towards Worcester, which we reached about one o'clock. We spent a day in Worcester, seeing the sights and buying souvenirs. Then we went up to Hallow and spent the night there.

Early the next morning we set off down the river back to our starting point. We passed Worcester at mid-day. After lunch we reached the River Teme, a tributary of the Severn, and went some way up it, not in the cruiser but in the small boat. When we returned to the motorboat we reached the River Avon and went up to Bredon and moored there. The next morning we returned to Tewkesbury, and so ended our holiday on the river.

We continue with Kennedy's account of

#### **A VISIT TO CAERNARVON CASTLE.**

One hot day on our summer holidays we were trying to decide what we could do in the afternoon, when I thought it would be cool inside the castle. After dinner we all climbed into the car and started off for Caernarvon Castle. We parked the car just outside, went through the toll-gate, and entered the Castle. First we saw in front of us a long, dark passage with a rope along the wall. It was very eerie. At the end of the passage we ascended a steep, spiral staircase leading to the top of a turret, from which we had a good view of the surrounding countryside, which we studied through our binoculars for about five minutes. Then we left the turret to examine the cannon and other relics of the castle's history, finishing up with a visit to the cold and gloomy dungeons which once more conveyed to us an eerie feeling.

We drove away, and after we had travelled about half a mile we looked back to admire the lofty old castle which dominated the entire neighbourhood.

We conclude with J. R. Morris's description of

#### **GLYN CEIRIOG.**

Glyn Ceiriog, or the valley of the River Ceiriog, runs from Chirk to Llanarmon Dyffryn-Ceiriog, and is, I regret to say, unknown to many people, even to many of those who pass regularly the end of the road which runs up the valley. As you go on the well-known A5 road from Chirk to Gobowen, you will find the valley road on your right at the end of the village and by the Hand Hotel. The

Ceiriog Valley has the most wonderful scenery in Wales say the people who know the district; and, as the road runs up the centre of the valley, all this beauty is in full view, for the full length of the valley, say ten miles or so, through Bron-y-Garth, Llansantfraid Glyn Ceiriog, Pandy and Tregeiriog, as far as Llanarmon Dyffryn-Ceiriog. You will not be disappointed if you are able to make a trip to see it for yourself.

## *Cricket*

### **1st XI.**

At the time of writing, the 1st XI. have played 13 games, 3 of which have been won, 1 drawn, and the rest lost. In general the failure to win many matches may be attributed to two factors. First, the fielding has been very weak, and has given away many runs and also many lives. No team can hope to do well with poor fielding. Second is the fact that there is no match-winning bowler in the team. On many occasions the bowling has been steady, but after taking 2 or 3 early wickets we have not been able to press home the advantage.

The batting has varied considerably. On two occasions the 100 mark has been passed, and this has not been done since 1954, but on too many occasions the runs have come from only one man. In this respect Lythgoe must be congratulated on some very consistent batting in early matches which resulted in the School reaching respectable scores.

The prospect for next year is fairly bright, however, as many of this year's team combined with some of the younger boys should make a promising XI.

Results to date are as follows:—

Apr. 25—B.I. 85 for 4 dec.—Park H.S. 86 for 5—Lost by 5 wkts.

May 2—Wirral G.S. 103 for 9 dec.—B.I. 65 for 6—Drawn.

May 5—B.I. 106 for 9 dec.—R.F.H.S. 66—Won by 40 runs.

May 9—B.I. 88—Oldershaw 89 for 9 Lost by 1 wkt.

May 16—B.I. 26—St. Anselm's College 118—Lost by 92 runs.

May 26—B.I. 110 for 9 dec.—Holt H.S. 111 for 6 dec.—Lost by 4 wkts.

May 30—B.I. 82—Quarry Bank H.S. 83 for 8—Lost by 2 wkts.

June 2—Alsop H.S. 82 B.I. 83 for 9—Won by 1 wkt.

June 6—B.I. 67—Chester C.G.S. 64—Won by 3 runs.

June 9—Liverpool Inst. 144 for 4 dec.—B.I. 52—Lost by 92 runs.

June 20—B.I. 21—Calday G.G.S. 26 for 4—Lost by 6 wickets.

June 23—B.I. 66—Bootle G.S. 67 for 1—Lost by 9 wkts.

June 30—B.I. 92—Park H.S. 93 for 0 Lost by 10 wkts.

## COLTS.

Although the Colts have not had a spectacular season from the point of view of results, most of their games have been evenly contested, and often victory has only narrowly eluded us. The team has played well together, and with a good spirit, and perhaps the most pleasing feature has been a general keenness and alertness in the field. The most successful bowler has been D. Jones, but he must learn to maintain his steadiness when things go wrong. He has been ably supported by Sykes and Barratt and on occasions by W. Jones. D. Jones has also proved a promising captain, and has handled the team well. The batting of the team has been rather uncertain, especially in the early matches, and too often has depended almost entirely on Barrett, who has played several useful innings. The most lamentable failure was against St. Anselm's College, when, after victory seemed assured following dismissal of our opponents for 22, we were able to muster only 18. Latterly, however, the batting has improved, and with the acquisition of confidence several useful players should develop from this team. Four members of the team have played regularly for the Birkenhead Schools' Association XI.

Two of the closest matches have been v. Alsop H.S., lost on the last ball of the match, and v. Liverpool Collegiate School, when we were favourably placed and our opponents managed to play out time with the last man in.

Results to date have been:—

May 5—B.I. 27—Rock Ferry H.S. 28 for 2—Lost by 8 wkts.

May 10—Wirral G.S. 67—B.I. 35 for 1—Drawn.

May 17—St. Anselm's College 22—B.I. 18—Lost by 4 runs.

May 26—Holt H.S. 64—B.I. 52—Lost by 12 runs.

June 2—Alsop H.S. 124 for 7 dec.—B.I. 76—Lost by 48 runs.

June 9—L'pool Inst. 46—B.I. 77—Won by 31 runs.

June 23—B.I. 66—L'pool Coll. Sch. 57 for 9—Drawn.

June 30—B.I. 67 for 7 dec.—Wade Deacon G.S. 30 for 5—Drawn.



The 2nd XI. and Under 16 XI. have been unfortunate in having had 3 of their 7 matches cancelled owing to adverse weather and other unavoidable causes. In the games played the 2nd XI. gained a good win against Wirral G.S., mainly owing to good fielding, and easily defeated Grange Sec. Sc., but lost narrowly to St. Anselm's Coll., on this occasion mainly owing to lapses in the field. In the third match, v. Calday G.S., they were well beaten.

The 2nd Form XI. has played one match to date v. Park H.S. whom they beat in a low-scoring match by 39 to 14. Our win was mainly due to the collapse of the Park batsmen against the bowling of W. Jones and Easdown. A return fixture is due to be played before the end of term.

## *Birkenhead Institute Old Boys' A.F.C.*

THE 1955-56 season has not, on the whole, been a very successful one from the playing point of view. Both first and second teams, playing in the Liverpool Old Boys' League, finished well down in their respective divisions, and we were knocked out of the cup competition in the very early stages by our old friends and rivals, Old Maricollians—who incidentally defeated us in the previous season's final. We were however honoured by the inclusion of two of our members—Ken Ingram and Eric Molyneux—in the League representative team.

We ran one or two very successful social evenings for club members, and the Christmas dance, whilst not reaping us any rewards financially, was unanimously agreed a most enjoyable evening.

Good news for the 1956-57 season is that we shall be running an associate Junior team in an age limit league in addition to the first and second elevens in the Old Boys' League. This should be a tremendous encouragement to any boys leaving school and desiring a game, but who feel that perhaps to go straight into an open competition is a little deterring.

We have many ambitious plans and high hopes for the coming season, for which we will most gladly welcome any new members. Anyone seeking information should contact the Honorary Secretary: Mr. J. Kernaghan, 7 Barnard Road, Oxtol, Birkenhead. (Tel. No. Birkenhead 8624).

## Old Instonians Rugby Football Club

**L**AST season was the most successful as a whole that the Old Boys' Rugby Club has had since the war. All three teams had excellent playing records, as is shown by the following figures:—

Team.	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points	
					For	Against
1st	28	20	1	7	434	152
2nd	25	21	2	2	498	107
3rd	24	21	2	1	541	95

The 3rd XV. in particular had an outstanding season, losing only one game, and that to a strong local 2nd XV. The points for—and—against figures for all teams are particularly impressive, and we look forward to the coming season with great confidence. Our playing record improves every season, and the Club goes from strength to strength.

The social aspect of the season was also enjoyed by all members, and we have a full social season arranged for the coming year. We thus feel justified in telling every boy leaving School that we can offer him a happy time with the Club, both on and off the field. Any of you joining us can be certain of good rugby with a friendly crowd of chaps, with plenty of enjoyable social events. These include dances, a dinner, socials, and a trip to the Isle of Man over Easter weekend, where we take part in a Rugby Festival. We invite any boy leaving School to join us, either as a playing or a non-playing member. Just drop me a post-card—Gordon Thomas, 43 Bendee Road, Neston—and I'll do the rest. We start training soon, so come along and join us.

The Club would like to take this opportunity of paying a tribute to Mr. Jones on his retirement as Headmaster. He is the founder of the Rugby Club, and also its President. For many years he has helped us in many ways, and has been a tower of strength, particularly in the difficult years immediately after the war, when the Club was being re-formed. We offer our deep and sincere thanks, with best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

In honour of Mr. Jones, the Club is holding a dinner on September 14th, at which a presentation will be made. Any past or present Old Boy who would like to attend the dinner, or give a donation to the Presentation Fund, can obtain full particulars from me.

Finally, we congratulate Mr. Webb on his appointment to the Headmastership. He has been Chairman of the Club for many years, and has accepted our invitation to become Club President. We wish him a long and successful term of office at the best School in Birkenhead.

G.A.T.



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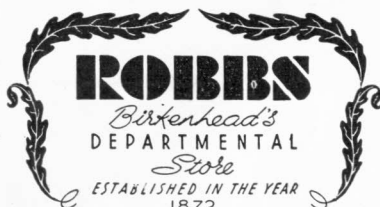
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