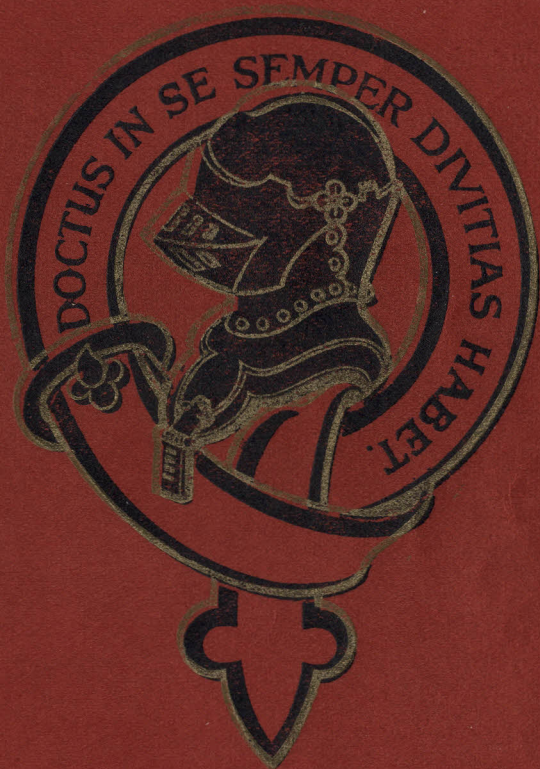


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MAGAZINE OF
BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE

EASTER 1958

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1st XV 1957-8



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Calendar

Spring term began	January 7th.
Half term	February 17th—19th (inclusive).
Cross Country Race	March 21st.
Speech Day	March 28th.
Spring term ends	April 2nd.
Summer term begins	April 21st.
Half term	May 26th and 27th.
Summer term ends	July 25th.
Autumn term begins	September 8th.
Material for Summer Visor to Mr. Hall	by May 31st.

Editorial

IT is sometimes thought (and said) that school magazines are a Victorian survival that has outlived its useful day, and that like all obsolete things they should now be abandoned. Whilst it is true that the literary magazine flourished more capably in the last than in this century, one wonders if it is not mere supineness rather than a desire to be up to date which has threatened their continuance in schools. One would have thought that to produce such records in an unbroken series since the early part of the nineteenth century (as has in fact been done at Eton and Tonbridge) is a matter for real pride and the best of all reasons for going on with them. And we might point out that shrewd businessmen have a profound belief to-day in house journals. Although our own School magazine has only been in existence for thirty years, it has already on two occasions in the past published historical surveys of our progress since the Institute's foundation in 1889, and plans next year to add to these the story of our first seventy years. We are determined that our *Visor* shall continue, and perhaps we may be permitted to say that its successful survival in these changed times has been envied by other schools.

But our stubborn resolve to remain in publication does not of necessity mean that we are satisfied with things as they are. In fact we would like to see the School magazine very much more the vehicle of serious contributions from those of our number who have the interest and the ability to produce them. Now that the *Visor* no longer has to fight for its existence in the market-place, but is circulated among all contributors to the School activities fund, changes which will, in our view, improve it have become possible. The Editor feels that the old feature known as "Form Notes" has outlived its usefulness and has become too much a thing of bits and pieces, offering opportunity neither for originality nor for literary merit worthy of the name. In future, therefore, we shall look for full-length articles. Indeed, some of the best material which has appeared in "Form Notes" in the past leads us confidently to believe that many will welcome the opportunity to write at length what has previously had to be curtailed. Again, the wide variety of subjects touched upon suggests that our contributors are unlikely to be gravelled for lack of matter.

We live in a district which should appeal in manifold ways to a lively imagination, and it should be a long time before the appeal of Mersey and Wirral has exhausted itself for the essayist. We should also welcome interesting reviews of plays and films seen, or criticisms of books read. And why is the present generation so coy over

the production of verse, lyric, comic, or satirical? There are now real opportunities in our pages for Instonians who want to see themselves in print. All seriously contrived contributions will be carefully considered for inclusion, and those selected will be suitably acknowledged. In addition, we hope to give more space in future to detailed accounts of the many and varied activities of the School, to critiques of the playing members of our teams, and notices of the active participants in all our societies.

It has so often been found that the pages of the *Visor* are indispensable for anyone compiling a trustworthy history of the School's past that we believe our attempt, as we complete our seventieth year, to make the magazine in future an even more detailed, representative, and accurate record of our several achievements will be amply justified in the years ahead. The *Visor* is an important part of the Institute's life, and we are confident that there must be many who will welcome the chance, and indeed regard it as a privilege, to use its pages as an expression not only of our corporate existence but of their own years here.

Salvete

For 2B—Landsberg, T. J.

Valete

Form L6S—Thomas, A.

Form 5A—Jackson, A.

Form 5B—Hayes, R. J. B.; Cram, R.; Wood, J. E.; Woods, E. A.

Form 4B—Williams, D.

Postcards

WHEN Mr. Gladstone as Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced in 1863 the postcard rate of one half-penny, he could scarcely have realised that he was in fact making possible one of the world's largest industries. Largest that is to say if the sheer number of articles produced is the basis of the claim. By the eighties, enterprising speculators had begun to realise the advertising possibilities of these cards within the standard limits of five and a half by three and a half inches imposed by the General Post Office. There were some panoramic view-cards of twice this length, which must have been the bane of postmen's lives in the early years of this century; but, in the main, the size laid down in 1863 obtains to this day. Shipping companies were perhaps the first to add illustration by

printing a picture of their vessels, occupying up to half of the reverse side. The message could be written in the remaining space and continued on one-half of the obverse, the address filling the right-hand side. White Star Line cards date from this period, when their liners still sported sailing rig and yards as well as stacks. Such items are now collector's pieces; but more of this anon. By the late nineties the picture postcard had assumed its present format, the view taking up all one side, address and message the other.

By 1900, publishing and selling such cards had become a major industry the world over, and the following decade is still spoken of in the trade as the picture postcard boom. Millions upon millions were made and sold. Indeed, the vast quantity produced affected social habits. While the late Victorian usually entertained his guests after tea with the family portrait album, showing George and Edith in the complicated and incredible finery of their wedding-day, it was to the postcard album that the Edwardian turned. Every family had at least one, great, fat, bulging, quarto, packed with views of Blackpool, Killarney, Trafalgar Square, and Brighton Pier. Men, women, and children garnered these as Pawnees collect scalps. To fail to send one to an acquaintance, even if one's trip were a bare week-end, invited ostracism. To destroy one, even to fail to insert it in the sacred archives, was very close to sacrilege. You must imagine the postmen of those years bent beneath untold sackloads of the things, not so much because mankind burned with a sudden fever of correspondence (in truth the epistolary level rarely got above "Dear Harry, I hope you like this view. Please send me one"); but because the postcard expressed in so easy and convenient a form a new consciousness of the bigness of the world and of its infinite variety. It marked the end of parochialism.

And who shall count the multitudinous range of subjects covered by those picture postcards which were like the hairs of the head for number or the grains of sand upon the sea shore? Not only did they register the haunts of the English upon holiday, depicting every esplanade, vantage point, church, castle, park, mansion, and village, from Land's End to John o' Groats, but they cast their nets wide enough to illustrate the popular songs of the day ("Lay your head on my shoulder, Daddy"), the stars (to use a latter-day term then virtually unknown in that connotation) of stage and musical comedy, as well as every current happening, serious and trivial, of that by-gone age. Where to-day perhaps only a half-dozen firms remain in the trade, then even the obscurest village post-office published and sold its own peculiar and private series of local views. A great railway company like the London and North

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Western advertised its services, locomotives, and rolling stock, in sets of cards, and disposed of such astronomical quantities of them at Euston, Crewe, and Carlisle, that the receipts figured respectably in their annual revenue. Nor were the British Museum, or South Kensington, or the National Portrait Gallery far behind in the race. Floods of cards printed in Saxony and Bavaria also depicted the British scene, though sometimes the spelling of our place names over-taxed Teutonic scholarship. And beyond these frontiers lay the colossal empire of the comic card, robust, vulgar, and anatomical. After believing for a lifetime that these are designed by a corporation of jolly red-nosed men, it came as something of a shock recently to discover that one of their leading professors is an austere trim-bearded person looking like a cross between Captain Dreyfus and an archdeacon.

It is easy to be satirical over our ancestors solemnly revolving the inevitable metal card-racks of that age or stuffing their loot into plush covered albums—though, if our world were to be obliterated by a bomb and only **one** of these survived, a professor of social history might learn more about our civilisation from it in ten minutes than some of his colleagues have managed to do up to now after ransacking whole libraries. But times have changed. The p.c. has become demode. The modern decor of lounge and living-room has banished the dust-collecting album, and the paper-salvage drives of the second war swept tons of the old views into oblivion.

There is another aspect of the subject still to be considered however. The wheel is beginning to come full-circle; for many post-card items are now seen to have great historic value. Frequently the humble penny card is found to be the only accurate pictorial record of scenes changed out of all recognition by time or war. More than one English county borough has appealed for old street views to be sent for official scrutiny where the local photographic surveys have serious omissions. Rarity and scarcity values follow the usual economic laws. Thus, now that the age of steam traction is ending, an album containing 150 cards published before 1914 by a railway company will be priced to-day by a technical bookseller at as much as £8, which averages almost a **shilling** a card, a princely rate of accretion. And price will continue to rise as such sets become fewer. Sixty years ago, bitten by the prevailing craze, a woman began to collect postcard portraits of our royal family. When abroad she added foreign royalties. What started as a hobby finished as a unique record of monarchical Europe before the first World War, and to-day her collection of Hohenzollerns, Wittelbachs, and Hapsburgs is the prized possession of one of the London Museums.

"We Must End War, or War Will End Us"

THERE are widespread fears that these weapons of mass destruction might wipe out the Western civilisation. These words were spoken in 1139, and the weapon referred to was the newly-invented crossbow. Since then, man has progressed enormously, if the word "progress" can be applied to man's almost uninterrupted march towards his own destruction. Through the ages, man has fought a large number of battles, great and small, and the weapons which he has used have become gradually more deadly.

The causes of a war are varied, but they usually arise from either jealousy or greed. Perhaps two kings have argued over the possession of a piece of land. Unable to come to an agreement, they declare war on each other. The men between the ages of eighteen and forty are summoned to the battlefield from both countries, and are given weapons. Each man is then told to kill as many men as he can from the other country, despite the fact that he probably has no quarrel with his "enemy." The battle is won by one of the armies, and the argument is settled, for the time being, at least. A large number of men from both countries have been killed, although it is unlikely that the two kings who started the war have been harmed in any way.

The invention of gunpowder marked the beginning of a new era in the fighting of battles. Before this, the use of such weapons as the sword and spear necessitated hand-to-hand fighting. When gunpowder was introduced, however, a man could destroy his enemies when they were some distance away. The stone castle, once impregnable, was rendered almost useless when fired upon by cannon. The invention of the aeroplane was another important event, and with the arrival of the aeroplane came the bomb. This weapon, at first comparatively harmless, has become gradually more deadly, until to-day its destructive power is out of all proportion to its size.

Although the number of people killed in recent wars has been great, a country has usually been able to carry on its normal way of life after a war has ended. During the last fifteen years, however, scientists have developed the atomic and hydrogen bombs, and it is now obvious that a war involving these weapons would result in the destruction of mankind. Despite the evidence of this fact, the major powers continue to arm themselves with these weapons, simply because they are not prepared to trust each other. The general attitude of the ordinary people is to blame the politicians and scientists, but we are all directly responsible for allowing this state of

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affairs to continue. If the scientists refused to design the bombs, and the workers refused to make them, then here could be no atomic warfare.

A nuclear war can have only one outcome. The next full-scale war will be the last.

P. ROCHE (5A).

The Indoor Man

IN days of yore, when men were men, and the female was in the minority in reality as well as numerically, this race was truly outdoor in custom. They lived, if that is the correct verb, either in caves or holes in the ground. Then, at a date which has been scratched from the records, the disease or phobia of avoiding the weather developed, and Man began an intensive campaign for better protection. This did not start with a demonstration of power by strikes and hunger-marches, or even mild riots, but by a general drift to being covered in at every possible minute.

The idea that the British as a people are retreating from an old enemy and hiding behind walls and under roofs will be frowned upon and criticised by such people as staunch Rugby players (who will willingly play in the filthiest mud and dirtiest weather, given the slightest hope of a moist reward afterwards) and ardent Everton fans who are proud to stand for hours cheering their valiant team while they strive to defend their goals against an onslaught of foot-balls. Shocked and hurt by these villainous aspersions cast by a bespectacled scientist, they hastily pack their bags and announce their intention of going away for a long holiday. Next day, very early (before noon), one of this group sets out as arranged. He walks all the way to the inside door of the garage, climbs inside his hermetically sealed car, and drives to the station. There, he dashes into the booking-hall, nimbly dodging an odd shaft of sunlight which cheekily slants down to illuminate him. He boards the waiting boat-train and, confident about his boldness, alights at least twenty feet from the cusoms shed, succumbs to their demands, and boards the ship up the tunnel-like gangway. On board and at sea he brazenly paces the promenade deck, glaring at the weather defiantly through the plate windows. In a momen of sheer recklessness he goes to the indoor swimming pool, dons his costly swimming equipment, and disappears for minutes on end, cruising serenely over the floor of

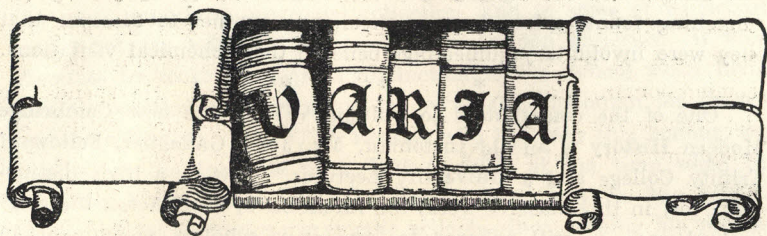
the bath, imagining the legs of the other occupants to be monstrous coral reefs and the black-clad women to be sharks. From the customs shed, he takes a taxi to his hotel and makes the long trek from taxi to revolving doors under the weather awning, past the commissionaire, and up in the lift to his room. He spends the day recuperating from the trip by watching television, eating, and telephoning his friends to gloat, and to assure them of his safe arrival, and to relieve their anxiety about his rashness. In a fit of boredom he sallies forth and is driven to the Casino, where he proceeds to enrich the owners at the expense of one of his bank accounts. This leaves him with a sense of insecurity which leads him to further rashness, and he quits the hotel and heads for the airport. Thus he arrives back from his arduous trip in style in a pressurised aircraft to resume his normal daily routine in the relatively confined atmosphere of office and Tube.

This little fairy tale was composed to illustrate the absurdity of Modern Man's boast to have conquered (or more correctly avoided) the elements. If this trend continues, the time is easily visualised when a person has no call at all to utilise the power given to him to move himself by his own exertion.

Even at present he has home entertainment provided by his television and radio, communication with his fellow beings by televisorphone, floodlit football, school buses, and the increasing possibility of conducting wars from behind control centres. With atomic-electric power on the way, improved chemical materials, and greater transport facilities, how soon is it likely to be before all stadia (even the size of the Rosebowl in America) are covered over with plastic, and the atmosphere controlled inside them, all roads and towns covered, and their protection assured? People usually laugh when parallels are drawn between Man and the Termite, but he is rapidly progressing to a highly organised, enclosed, and precarious existence which the Termite has had since the reign of the monsters in the dawn of creation.

H.M.(V.I.S.)





IT is to be hoped that with the Christmas Carol Services held at the School on December 18th and 19th of last term something that will become an Institute tradition has been inaugurated. We had already gained some knowledge of the capacity of the choir at prayers, but the audiences at the three performances (the whole School having enjoyed the Wednesday afternoon 'dress rehearsal') must have derived great pleasure not only from the singing but also from the range of the pieces rendered. The setting of "Magnificat" was the choir's most ambitious venture, and here the tone and assurance deserved the highest praise. It was pleasant to hear the music of Gounod once more, and we must thank Anson of 2A for his excellent solo work. Finally the School owes a very great debt to Mr. Shaw for the unqualified success of these performances. His training of the choir, its discipline, and his own interludes at the piano, all combined to make these noteworthy occasions.

* * *

Christmas had scarcely passed, before we were again agreeably reminded of our contributions to the Arts. Beginning on January 3rd at the Rushworth Gallery in Liverpool, Miss Price held an exhibition of her paintings. These received high praise by the critic writing in the Liverpool "Echo" of January 10th, and we heartily endorse his sentiment that only the very best work was expected from the Art Mistress at Birkenhead Institute. We would add two further reflections: firstly, that this sort of publicity does the School untold good, and secondly that all those who daily climb the stairs to the Art Room should be reminded by it of the opportunity afforded them, even in ordinary lessons, to enter the boundless world of form and colour.

* * *

Extensive repairs and renewals in both laboratories have been carried out this term, and a good deal of venerable equipment that might have fascinated Boyle or Faraday has at length disappeared. While all our experimental scientists must rejoice at such long overdue improvement, their transports will be outmatched by those living underneath these admittedly important departments. It was

one thing for those engaged below to find the heavens opening and refreshing founts released upon them, but another to discover that they were involuntary guinea-pigs beneath these chemical visitations.

* * *

One of the contributors to Volume VII. of the new Cambridge Modern History is an old Instonian, Mr. John Gallagher, Fellow of Trinity College and a University Lecturer. This is a high distinction; for, in this massive work, the intention of Lord Acton the original planner, is still adhered to, and only scholars preeminent in their particular field are entrusted with its writing. Mr. Gallagher, who was at the Institute from 1930 to 1937 and who studied history in the VI form before proceeding to Cambridge with an open scholarship, contributes chapter XXIV. in the present work, entitled "Economic Relations in Africa."

* * *

We take pleasure in recording a further local expression of the esteem in which a famous old Instonian, Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, is held in his profession. In February he was presented with his portrait by the Liverpool Medical Council, and no doubt Lord Cohen will value this token of regard in his native district equally with the signal honours already awarded him by the Sovereign and by his own University.

* * *

Since half-term Mr. Squires has been acting as Careers Master, and there is no doubt that this will prove an exceedingly useful service to those members of the Vth and Vith forms who will be leaving at the end of the School Year, and who need advice on entry into the various professions. This is particularly true now that competition for posts is sharpening. Mr. Squires will be glad to help all those who need assistance, and the present arrangement is that he may be consulted on Mondays from 4 p.m. onwards in the ground-floor form-room to the left of the entrance in the old Junior School Building. Here, enquirers will have access to current literature on vacancies and possible appointments.

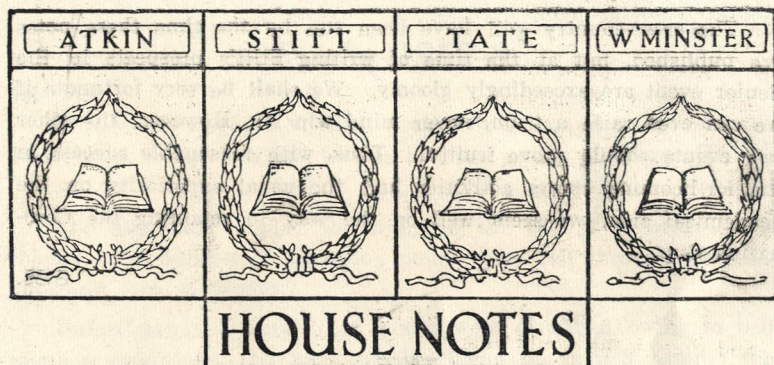
* * *

A party of about 50 boys from 5A and the Science Sixth Forms attended the Faraday Lecture, "Electrification of Railways," on Thursday afternoon, March 6th. It was given in the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, and had been arranged by the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

* * *

On Monday afternoon, March 17th, a group of about 20 boys from the Science Sixth Forms went on a tour of the Shell Oil Refinery at Stanlow.

The Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool might fairly claim to be the most important provincial collection, and in some of its departments not far behind the most famous London galleries. It must therefore be reckoned a great distinction to the School when Liverpool Corporation acquires a picture by an Old Instonian for its permanent collection. Mr. J. G. Keates, who has won this honour, was a pupil at the Institute from 1925 to 1931, at the time when the late Mr. Philip Paice was Art Master here, and he has been a teacher of art in various grammar schools since gaining his professional diplomas. He thus joins the growing company of Instonians whose achievements in the arts have earned the highest recognition.



ATKIN.

DURING the Spring Term, House activities have been in a state of relative dormancy before the strenuous Summer Term.

The sole activity so far this term has been the Junior Chess House matches. In this respect, Atkin won one match against Tate 4—3, but lost the two remaining matches, against Stitt and Westminster, rather heavily. However, in the field of rugby, Atkin has enhanced her prestige by providing one of the three School colours awarded this season—namely Charters.

Perhaps in the cross-country, yet to be run this term, and the Athletic Sports and Cricket, next term, Atkin will be able to improve her position in the Coronation Cup. For a normal healthy boy there is a very slight difference between making his best effort towards success and falling in with the general run of stragglers. If Atkin can put a little more effort into her activities next term she will be amply rewarded.

G.B.E.

STITT.

THIS year is proving to be the most unfortunate one we have experienced for some time. Beginning the year with nobody in the Upper Sixth, Stitt was the worst affected of all the houses by the influenza epidemic. Now, to add to our injuries, this term has seen us lack the services of our House-Master, Mr. Townsend. However, we have achieved some degree of success in the Junior Chess matches. We survived with an undefeated record: Atkin were humiliated 6—1, while the other two houses provided sterner opposition, and, although we defeated Tate, we could only manage a draw against Westminster. Special praise must go to Brown, Harding, Johnston, and Kellet, who all played exceptionally well.

The cross-country will have been run by the time these notes are published, but at the time of writing Stitt's prospects in the Senior event are exceedingly gloomy. We shall be very fortunate if we can even raise a team, never mind win it! However, the other two events should prove fruitful. Thus, with reasonable success in the forthcoming sports activities and the usual superiority on the academical side, we seem well on the way to retaining the Coronation Cup.

G.M.

TATE.

THE only inter-house activity this term has been the Junior Chess. The House began well by beating Westminster $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{2}$. The other games, against Atkin and Stitt, were rather disappointingly lost by 4—3 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{2}$ respectively. The effect on the overall placing was to give the House second position behind Westminster.

Last summer the House was second in Athletics, but finished rather a long way behind Westminster. In order to improve the general standard of athletics throughout the House, practices have been arranged to take place at the Field. However, at the time of writing, a series of untoward events, notably the weather, has successfully thwarted all attempts to hold them. It is hoped that all remaining practices will be successfully held, and it is essential that all boys whose names appear on the lists should attend, as it is only by practice that the House may hope to maintain or improve on last year's efforts.

R.F.S.

WESTMINSTER.

THIS term has not been a very eventful one as far as house activities are concerned. At the end of last term the chess was in doubt because the Juniors had still to play their 3 games. Of these, Westminster beat Atkin 5—2, lost to Tate $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{2}$, and drew with Stitt $3\frac{1}{2}$ — $3\frac{1}{2}$. Mention must be made of Oldham and Miller, who won all their games. As a result of these junior matches, the house finished first with a total of $4\frac{1}{2}$ matches.

As a result of the chess, the house now has a two point lead over its nearest rivals, Tate.

Regular athletic training has been open to all members of the House on Thursdays at 4 p.m. In connection with the athletics, it is hoped that every boy will try his best to help the House to get another first place in the Coronation Cup competition. P.J.S.

Rugby 1957-8

1st XV.

This year's Rugby XV. can be regarded as one of the most satisfactory the School has had for the last few years. Its record is:—

Played 17. Won 10. Lost 7.

The standard of play improved as the season progressed, although on a number of occasions points were lost through carelessness and lack of thought.

Unfortunately a number of games were cancelled owing to bad weather conditions, the most notable being the match against the Old Boys and our great local rivals St. Anselm's College.

The side has been well led and set a fine example by its captain, R. Salmon, and in his absence T. H. Harris.

A number of the side played in representative teams during the Christmas holidays.

Birkenhead G.S. v. A Public Schools XV.

P. Sampson, J. Lowry, T. H. Harris, V. Smith, E. F. Boyd, T. F. Hardy, D. Charters, G. B. Evers.

Junior XV. Trial.

D. W. H. Wylie, F. Hadfield, Docherty, R. Byrne.

Birkenhead Schools Junior XV. v. Liverpool Schools Junior XV.

D. Wylie, F. Hadfield, Docherty.

Birkenhead Park Schools XV. v. Sale Schools XV.

E. Boyd. Reserve P. Sampson.

Cheshire v. Staffordshire.

Reserve P. Sampson.

1st XV. CRITIQUE.

R. F. SALMON (Captain, Schools Colours, Prop Forward).

A good forceful captain. A hard-working forward. Line out work one of the outstanding features of his play.

T. H. HARRIS (School Colours, Centre three-quarter).

A good attacking player with his determined hard running. His defence for the most part is very good and sound. The giving and timing of passes must be given more thought and practice.

G. B. EVERS (School Colours, Wing Forward).

He has gone from strength to strength. He is continually up with the ball and leads many attacks. One of his main weaknesses is defence around the scrum. His general covering in both attack and defence is becoming most effective.

V. SMITH (School Colours, Hooker).

He has proved himself to be a most effective hooker. He is a good hard-working forward but occasionally has the bad habit of hanging back in the loose mauls. A good tackler and handles the ball well.

D. CHARTERS (Wing Forward).

A greatly improved player. He appears to take great relish in obliterating opposing outside halves. One of his weaknesses is his fitness: it is not always up to the required standard. His covering in defence is good. His covering in attack must improve if he is to become a first-class wing forward.

E. F. BOYD (Prop. Forward).

A steady and useful forward who relies on hard work and steadiness rather than brilliance. His all-round play is most satisfactory but he must try and help his hooker more.

H. McDOUGALL (2nd Row).

During Salmon's absence he led the forwards well. A good hard-working forward who always gives of his best. His one major weakness is lack of mobility about the field.

T. F. HARDY (2nd Row).

A good line-out forward. He should have made more use of his speed and strength.

F. HADFIELD (Lock).

He is going to be a first-class forward if he continues to improve as he has done this season. His main weakness is his defence around the scrum and his positioning in defence and attack. These will improve with experience and a little thought.

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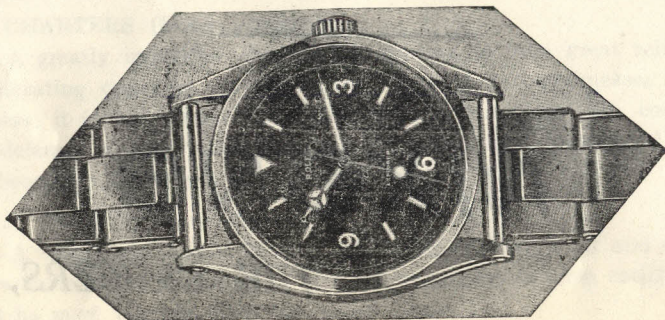
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J. F. LOWRY (Centre threequarter).

Generally a good defensive player. In attack he must have more confidence in his hands, his ability to run, and his wingman, and make less use of his ability to kick.

P. F. SAMPSON (Full Back).

Positions himself well. Fields the ball well. A useful place kick. His great weakness is kicking for touch. He must learn to kick with either foot with greater length and accuracy and always to keep his eye on the ball.

P. BARRETT (Stand Off).

His handling of the ball is a joy to watch. His defensive kicking is good. The main weakness is slowness off the mark and consequent failure to be a really effective link. These points can be corrected by practice and experience. His ability to drop-kick a most useful means of scoring points.

G. K. GREAVES (Stand Off).

A very hard-running player. A most difficult player to stop when in full flight. Must learn to catch a ball using both hands and to link with his three-quarters where possible.

KEATING (Scrum Half).

A most courageous player. He passes the ball well from the base of the scrum. He must quicken his pass and develop a greater variety of passes.

F. PHIPPS (Scrum Half).

Excellent both in attack and defence. He must remember that his main job as a scrum half is to feed his stand-off with clean, quick, accurate passes and to keep his eye on the ball.

C. COLLEY (Wing threequarter).

A very strong runner. But must always remain and make full use of his chances.

D. WYLIE (Wing threequarter).

A fast runner. Always looking for work. He has not had many chances to show his paces. Good in defence.

1st XV. COLOURS AWARDED.

P. Sampson; E. Boyd; D. Charters.

COLTS 1957-8.

Owing to the 'Asian flu' epidemic at the beginning of the season, the Colts made a poor start, losing three matches out of the first four.

The first match was against Helsby who, at that time, were a considerably stronger side. Half the team were absent, and had it not been for Forrester's excellent backing up, and Brady's tackling at full-back, the team would have suffered a greater defeat. Other matches lost were against Wirral Grammar School and Birkenhead School, but a win was first gained versus Grove Park.

After this rather unfortunate start, the fifth match was a return against Helsby, and the team, now back to full strength, avenged their first defeat by the fair margin of 20 points to 3. This match was the first of a run of successes, some of the teams being St. Anselm's College, St. Edward's College, Park High, Oldershaw, Rock Ferry, and Calday. Unfortunately, the Colts lost their last match against Wade Deacon Grammar School by 14 points to 9.

The match against a formidable Oldershaw side proved one of the best games. The team went on the field with determination and enthusiasm. The forwards, ably led by the captain, McCarter, at his best, did some excellent scrummaging, and the backs made some scintillating runs, and scored many tries. Elliot made some very fast runs on the wing, and on numerous occasions was brought down inches short of the line. On two occasions in Oldershaw's twenty-five, Johnson, in his best-ever performance at scrum half, made two dashes for their line, after picking the ball up from the scrum, and scored two tries, with the loss of one rugby shirt.

Park High, a powerful side, put up game fights, but the team narrowly won on both occasions by 9-3 and 3-0.

The backs play excellently as individuals, but on most occasions the passing is not as it should be. Too often, the ball is given out while the backs are standing still; and a great deal of practice is needed, to improve their passing while moving fast.

The Colts' strength lies in their fairly heavy and capable pack. A number of their forwards—no names mentioned—have a tendency to take a breather occasionally, and for this reason the loose scrummaging and line-outs are by no means perfect.

Peters jumps well in the line out, and Doveston and Lord are quick to take the slip and progress forward. Docherty and Macmaster are very speedy in the breakthrough, and are a real menace to the opposing scrum-halves.

McCarter is an able captain and individualist. He is quick to experiment and quick in taking the ball, and he has been rewarded with many tries.

Brady is an excellent full-back. His tackling is superb, he is quick to join in the attack, and usually finds a good 'touch.'

The number of points scored against the team in the first four matches was 57 points to 26. In the next eleven matches the totals have completely changed, 188 points against 28, making a full total of 214 for, 85 against.

The Colts have reason to feel pleased with their success, a success due to a keen spirit and enthusiasm for the game, a reliable number of reserves, and, thankfully, a season free from nagging injuries.

BANTAMS XV. 1957-8.

Since December the team has played five matches:

Dec. 14—Calday Grammar School (Home)	Lost 3—16
Feb. 6—St. Edward's College (Home)	Lost 3—12
Feb. 13—Park High School (away)	Won 9—3
Mar. 6—Wirral Grammar School (Away)	Lost 0—50
Mar. 8—Wade Deacon Grammar School (Away)	Won 15—6

The return match with St. Anselm's College was cancelled.

The results for the whole season may be summarised as follows: Played 15. Won 6. Lost 8. Drawn 1. Points for 133. Points against 209

Though it is obvious from the above facts that there remains plenty of room for improvement, the results are far from being discouraging. Only once did the team fail to score; on the other hand, unfortunately, the opponents were allowed to score in every game—a fact that points to a certain laziness in defence, even when the team seemed generally in control of the game.

The apparent catastrophe at Wirral Grammar School was simply due to the fact that they were playing against a very good team who handled the ball extremely well despite the terrible conditions. Two days after this match virtually the same team did much to regain their self-esteem (and incidentally to uphold the reputation of the School's rugby at a time when others failed) by winning at Wade Deacon.

I hope that the whole team, and several reserves who faithfully gave of their best at all times, will during the year have gained some valuable experience, that may enable them to reap greater success in the future.

J.H.T.

Chess

THE 1st team has played its outstanding matches in the Wright Shield Competition this term against Holt H.S., Merchant Taylor's School, and Wallasey. In every case our opponents proved too strong for us, and we thus completed the competition without a win to our credit this year. A weakened School team also played a return friendly match with Maghull G.S., but once again we underestimated our opponents who won the match 5—3. On future occasions we will ensure that these wily opponents meet nothing but our best! There is one further School fixture outstanding, and this is for 2 teams, representing Forms 1 and 2 and Forms 3 and 4, who are due to meet Grange Secondary School in a return match on Wednesday, March 19th.

The Junior House matches were played off this term, and the final House placings in the Combined Senior—Junior matches were:

1. WESTMINSTER	4½ points
2. TATE	3 points
3. STITT	2½ points
4. ATKIN	2 points

The Senior and Junior championships are due to be played off in the near future, and may be decided by the times these notes appear.

Finally, 14 boys have entered for the Liverpool Junior Chess Congress this year, in which there is a record number of over 1000 entries. We wish our representatives luck, and hope they do themselves justice and bring credit to the School.

Film Society

THE activities of the Film Society were rounded off this year by a visit to *Celui qui doit Mourir*, an outstanding film by Jules Dassin, which was attended by most members of the society. Lectures on various aspects of cinema did not prove particularly attractive to members, however, for, without a projector and film, much of the discussion has to be on a theoretical plane. The season as a whole has been of interest in revealing what members require of a Film Society, and their comments have proved useful in planning future activities.

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Language Club

THE success of this new type of club during the past two years has been one of the most interesting features of out-of-school activities. The last two terms have brought further recruits to the German, Russian, and Spanish classes. A new concession to members is that they can now attend any meeting of the club, regardless of the language they are studying, and receive further instruction in that language. Those who are keen to progress quickly find this a most advantageous arrangement. The club's activities will extend over the Summer term.

Music Society

THERE have been no formal Society meetings this term, but almost daily, in the lunch-hour or after 4-0 p.m., there has been private rehearsal of soloists or instrumentalists for a forthcoming concert. After the great success of the Carol concerts (musically, financially, and socially) it has been decided to make such efforts the focus of musical activity. The object is to find an outlet for the desire to perform the term's work in public, to foster enthusiasm, and to improve standards. To assist the work, a tape-recorder would be invaluable, and so all efforts will be directed to raising sufficient funds to secure one. It is hoped that this may be achieved by the receipts from concerts and donations from all who would like to help. Recordings will then be made of successful items by choir and individuals, and will provide not only valuable historical matter but also considerable help in the raising of standards. Other departments too would be given the opportunity to employ the instrument in their subjects. Concerts, it is hoped, will be performed towards the end of each term. The dates for this term are April 1st and April 2nd, at 7-30 p.m. Please make a note of the dates. A full and appreciative audience is earnestly solicited.

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OLD INSTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

MORE than fifty Old Boys were present on 23rd December, 1957, when the Association Club at 126 Elmswood Road, Birkenhead, was opened by the President, Mr. E. G. Webb. In his remarks, Mr. Webb spoke of the landmark the event was in the history of Birkenhead Institute's Old Boys. He had always maintained that, for an Association to thrive, a meeting-place such as the Club was essential, and he wished the Old Instonians success in their development of the Club and its resources. Congratulations were offered to the House Sub-Committee, particularly to Mr. A. Bushell, its Chairman, for their great efforts in preparing the premises before the vital Christmas rush.

Since then, the Club has been used by the Old Instonians A.F.C. and the Old Instonians R.U.F.C. (both now affiliated to the Association) for their Committee meetings; by the R.U.F.C. Ladies' Committee for a meeting; by the A.F.C. for a presentation; and by a darts team which played (and won) a match against Old Anselmians R.U.F.C. The Club is also open regularly at the following times: Sunday, Monday, and Friday, from 8-0 to 11-0 p.m., and Saturday from 4-30 to 11-0 p.m. Affiliated sections may have the exclusive use of the Club at other times on application to the Association Secretary, Mr. R. Binyon, 264 Spital Road, Bromborough, Wirral (Tel. Bromborough 1151). Early notice will be appreciated, particularly when, on special occasions, an extension of the licence is required.

As to the future, the Association plans to complete and improve the Club's heating, decoration, and furnishing, including the re-surfacing of the floor, and to provide further facilities (especially if the remainder of the premises can be rented and put in order) for, among other activities, table tennis and billiards. It is hoped, too, to arrange a programme of social events at the Club in order to attract as many Old Boys as possible, especially those not already members of affiliated sections. Attention is also being given to the possibility of increasing the number of these sections.

Old Instonians R.U.F.C.

SINCE the last notes in the *Visor*, all the teams have continued to play good Rugby, and have, as a result, shown good playing records:—

	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts. For	Pts. Agst.
1st XV.	14	7	0	258	137
2nd XV.	14	3	0	194	84
3rd XV.	11	4	1	274	121

The 1st XV. in particular have shown a definite improvement, and, in the ten games played since the last *Visor* notes, have won eight and lost two. The other two teams have continued to maintain the high standard which has now become almost traditional.

The Christmas Dance held at the Town Hall was a success, and all present seemed to enjoy themselves. It encourages the Club to hold another Dance of the same kind next Christmas.

The next event of note is the Isle of Man Tour, taking place, as usual, during Easter weekend. We shall be playing two full games during the weekend, and also entering two Sevens teams in the Seven-a-Side Tournament on Easter Saturday. Talking of Sevens, the Park and Caldy Sevens will soon be here, and we hope for as much support as possible from the touchline. We also wish the School team the best of luck in their Sevens gamess,

The Club is now affiliated to the Old Boys' Association, and all members who have paid subscriptions to the Club are entitled to use the Association Clubhouse in Elmswood Road. It is rapidly becoming a meeting-place for Rugby Club members, particularly on Saturday afternoons immediately after the game.

The biggest item of news is that the Club has now rented a ground, this being the sports ground at the R.A.F. Camp, West Kirby, which is now virtually closed. We hope to buy at least part of the ground when it becomes available, and, if we are successful, we shall certainly have one of the finest grounds on Merseyside, without exception. We hope to have more news of this for the next *Visor* notes.

Meanwhile, we extend our invariable friendly invitation to all Boys leaving the School who are interested in Rugby to join the Club. We can promise them an enjoyable time. Boys still at School in the senior forms are eligible for Associate Membership, which involves no subscription on their part. Mr. Malcolm has membership forms for any boys wishing to join.

In closing, on behalf of the Club I should like to send the Headmaster, Staff, and Boys, our very best wishes for their continued success and prosperity.

G.A.T.

Old Instonians A.F.C.

1st 2nd and 3rd Divisions Liverpool Old Boys' League.

Grounds: Arrowe Park, B'head; "Woodslee," Spital Rd., Brombro'.

THE Club has continued to make fine progress this season. The first eleven are once again staking their claim as one of the top clubs in the league. Their record reads. 16 played, 12 won, 3

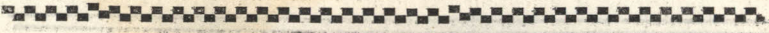
lost, 1 drawn, 61 goals for, 39 against, 25 points. They have also reached the semi-final of the League Senior Trophy. This feat has been emulated by the second eleven in the League Junior Trophy, and it is pleasing to note that their league position is an improvement on last season, with a record of 15 played, 6 won, 8 lost, 1 drawn, 44 goals for, 52 against, 13 points. The third eleven are unfortunately having a very lean time, and they are suffering from a surfeit of "let-downs"—surprisingly from the younger element from whom we expected so much. However, this is their first season in the field, and they are battling most doggedly against the odds. I am sure that, once they get over their teething troubles, they will enjoy many good games, and success will attend them.

Already several of our newcomers have started establishing reputations and proving their worth. Apart from the stalwarts who are doing so much for the survival of the third team, both L. Sykes and D. Lee have already played their way into the first team, and with several other of the younger players shaping well it augurs well for the future strength of the senior side.

We continue to improve upon our conditions at the new ground at "Woodslee," Bromborough, where the dressing-rooms are now in presentable condition, and a good hot shower is available after the game. A recent innovation is a hot cheering "cuppa" after the game. In this connection we are indebted to the Wife and Sister-in-law of our Chairman, Mr. Christian.

We have held two dances this season at St. Saviour's Hall, Oxtou. The first one, in December, had to be held on a Friday night owing to circumstances beyond our control, and this tended to reduce the attendance. However, a fair profit was made, albeit not as much as we had hoped for. The second dance, held on a Saturday in February, proved more profitable, and was thoroughly enjoyed by a far heavier attendance. The Club held its first "Stag Night" at the new Association Club Room at Elmswood Road on March 5th. The Club Room is proving an unqualified success. Comfortable, warm, and tastefully decorated, it provides an ideal meeting-place for Old Boys of all sections—or no section for that matter. In addition to being useful for Club meetings and get-togethers, it is also already established as an excellent rendezvous for both Rugby and Soccer sections after their games on Saturdays.

J. KERNAGHAN, Hon. Secretary.



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