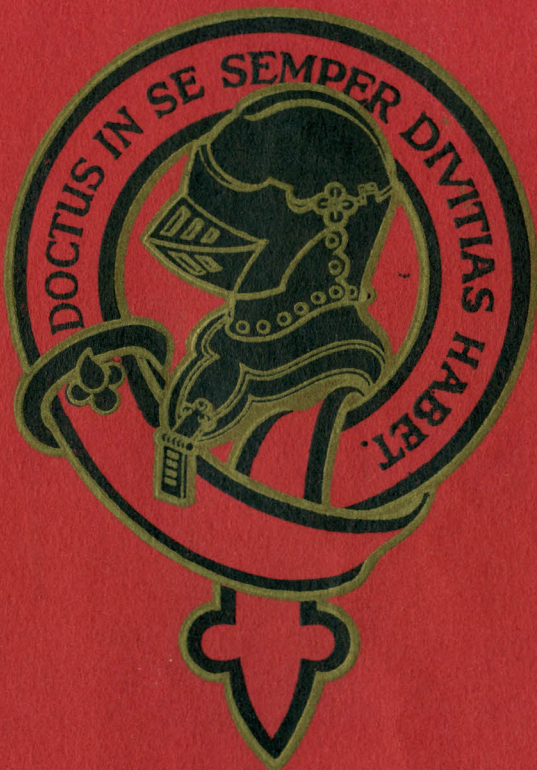


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**MAGAZINE OF  
BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE**

SUMMER, 1963.

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## *CRICKET TEAM 1963.*



Back Row (left to right): D. N. Forshaw, D. R. Ratcliff, L. C. Lindop, J. R. Croft, L. Ritchie, M. F. McNulty,  
C. J. Westwater, G. F. Brown, L. T. Malcolm, Esq.  
Front Row (left to right): R. D. Parry, G. W. Clays, P. W. Kevan, P. G. Parry, L. R. McKitrick.





## EDITORIAL.

LIFE is more exciting outside school than in it, especially in the summer term when life revolves around examinations internal and external. We are all looking for relief in the summer holidays and hope that "summer" will be more than a conventional epithet.

About the only thing worth recording this term is the acquisition of a trampoline which glitters in the hall each lunch-time, bright metal and terylene in contrast with the drab décor of the old gymnasium. It is well used and the boys are thrilled with their new 'toy'—if Mr. Hall will pardon the word.

Some hopes are centred in the mysterious building that goes on in the old preparatory school and reports are that the results are pleasing; but the general feeling is that the renovation cannot take place quickly enough and fears are that it will cease too soon.

One can detect in the school an atmosphere of waiting—we all seem to be a collection of un-vocal Micawbers. Perhaps examinations alone do not provide sufficient sense of purpose, but what can be done to bring a sense of living into school life? The effort for the Easter Fair was splendid and a sign of the enthusiasm that can be engendered for a worthy purpose, but has all this effort been dissipated? One looks in vain for a long list—a mere list would be enough—of school societies and activities but where are they? Little is really **happening**; we are just drifting along.

What are the remedies? What, indeed, are the reasons? Perhaps the demands of exams preclude activity in societies in this summer term but can we look for fuller support in the next school year? Are boys prepared to demand and support—support is the important thing—lively social activity? And can something be done to make this school like the modern grammar school it is and reawaken some of the spirit which made this school great in the past.

## STAFF NOTES.

**T**HIS term we welcomed to the Staff Room Mr. D. J. Velardé, who has been appointed to teach Biology. After taking his B.Sc. degree at Liverpool University, he spent a year at the Sorbonne, teaching English and studying French, and he has seen service at All Hallows School, Speke. In his progress up Whetstone Lane he was followed by lizards, snakes, fish, frogs and tadpoles. These are now installed in various corners throughout the school and certainly provide a measure of surprise from time to time.

We were also pleased to welcome Mrs. Gee who has come to act as laboratory assistant.

It is with much regret that we say goodbye to Mr. J. Phipps and Monsieur J. C. Redonnet. Mr. Phipps is going to Netherton Grammar School after teaching French here with great vigour and after proving most successful in coaching unbeatable rugby teams. Monsieur Redonnet returns to France after his one year spell as French Assistant during which time he has made quite a name for himself as a solver of 'Times' crosswords.

## DENMARK.

**T**HE school party will assemble at Lime Street Station, Liverpool, at 8-15 a.m. on Sunday, 18th August. They are due to arrive at Euston at 1-42 p.m. and to leave Liverpool Street at 3-05 p.m. for Harwich. There they will board the boat for Esbjerg.

During their stay in Denmark, they will live most of the time at Karlshunde, a short drive away from Copenhagen and within two minute's walk of the Baltic. Excursions have been arranged to Copenhagen, the Tivoli Gardens, Roskilde, Elsinore and Halsingborg in Sweden.

The party will return to Liverpool at 10-15 p.m. on Thursday, 29th August.

## ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

### A SEA IN SPACE.

**W**ISHER did not see the brightness because he was back aft, alone. In the still ship he sat quietly relaxed. He was not bored. It was just that he had no interest. After fourteen years in the Mapping Command even the strangest of new worlds was routine to him.

The brightness that Wisher did not see grew with the passing moments. A pale young man named Dewar who was Wisher's crewman, watched it for a long while absently, when the gleam took on brilliance and a blue white dazzling blaze. Dewar was startled. He stared at the screen for a long moment, then carefully checked the distance. Still a few light minutes away the planet was already uncommonly bright.

Pleasantly excited Dewar watched the planet grow. Slowly the moons came out and winked and ringed the bright world like pearls on a vast necklace. Dewar gazed in awe. The blueness and brightness flowed in together; it was the most beautiful thing that Dewar had ever seen.

Excited, he buzzed for Wisher. Wisher did not come.

Dewar took the ship in close and now it occurred to him to wonder. The glare was incredible. That a planet should shine like that, like an enormous facet of polished glass, was incredible. Now as he watched, the light began to form vaguely into folds of clouds. The blue grew richer and deeper. Long before he hit the first cloud bank Dewar knew what it was.

He pounded the buzzer. Wisher finally came.

When he saw the water on the screen he stopped in his tracks.

"Well, I'll be damned" he breathed.

Except for a few scuds of clouds, it was blue. There was the white of the clouds and the ice caps but the rest was blue, the rest was water.

Dewar began to grin, "A world of water. Now how's that for a freak?" he chuckled. "One in a million, right Jeff? I bet you never saw anything like this."

Wisher shook his head, still stearing. Then he moved quickly to the controls and set out to make a check.

They arched the planet, with the slow spiralling motion of the Mapping Command, booming radar off the dark side. When they came back to daylight they were sure. There was no land on the planet.

Dewar as usual began to chatter. "Well, naturally," he said, "it was bound to happen sooner or later. Take earth, which has a land mass of only one third.

"Yep" nodded Wisher.

"—and when you consider the odds, chances are that there are quite a number of planets with scarcely any land area at all, due to its retarded evolution.

Wisher had moved back to the screen.

"Let's go down" he said.

Dewar startled, stared at him, "Where."

"Down low. I want to see what's living in that Ocean.

According to plan, then, they dropped down into the stratosphere went further down below the main cloud region, and levelled off at a thousand feet. Below them mile after rolling billowy mile, the sea flowed out to the great bare circle of the horizon.

With the screen at full magnification, they probed the water.

It was surprising, in all that expanse of sea, to observe so little. No schools of fish of any kind, no floating masses of seaweed, nothing, nothing . . . . .

Wisher dropped only a hundred feet or so lower. In a world where evolution was still or must have been still confined under water, it would be best to keep at a distance.

It was from that height then, that he saw the Ark!

P. SCOFFIELD, 4A.



## POEM BEGINNING WITH A LINE BY MATTHEW ARNOLD.

COLD, grey, unlighted, austere;  
Slow swims the moon in an ocean of black.  
Stars glisten with a yellow light of infinite age  
Lost in a boundless expanse.

M. CAMPBELL-KELLY, L.6.

## THE HOBBY OF PHOTOGRAPHY.

THE word photography comes from the two Greek words, "photo", meaning light, and "graph" meaning drawing. Both words together old cameras, the inverse image was projected on to a "wet plate", by means of a very small aperture. The term, "wet plate", means exactly what it says. The picture had to be taken while the plate was wet, indeed, in the nineteenth century photography was a very messy hobby. In modern cameras context lenses are used. In cheap cameras there is only one lens, and the aperture and shutter speed are fixed. In the more expensive cameras up to three lenses are used and the shutter speed, aperture, and "image distance" can be altered. The image distance is the distance from the optical centre of the outermost lens, and the film.

A film consists of backing paper (the paper with the numbers on it), celluloid and the light sensitive coating (usually silver nitrate, or silver bromide). The lightest part of the subject "gives off" the most light. The parts of the film most acted upon by the light are black. This is because when light reaches the film emulsion (the correct name for the chemical) the silver compound is decomposed to metallic silver. This is the reason that the brightest part of the photograph is the darkest part of the negative. Developing is the process by which a film is made transparent, and the features brought out. A film which is not developed is just the emulsion on the celluloid, is light grey in colour, and quite opaque. After a film has been developed, it is "fixed" so that when brought into the daylight will not turn completely black.

Contact printing is the art of transforming the negative into a print of the same size. The negative is placed in a printing frame, together with a printing mask (for making the white borders) and a sheet of light-sensitive contact paper. Contact paper is made in several grades, and the best for the average negative is white, smooth, glossy, single weight, normal (Grade two). On exposure to the light, contact paper turns black. The paper, with the negative, in the frame is exposed to the light from two to eight seconds, depending on the negative. After the exposure the paper is developed, rinsed, fixed, washed for thirty minutes, and glazed, to give it a glossy finish.

The subject of colour and ciné photography is far more complex, and is beyond the scope of this present article.

L. A. TOFTS, 4A.

## THERE IS LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS

ANYONE who thinks otherwise is absolutely wrong, because to start with there is life on Mars. It is probably a very primitive form of life, being merely a likeness somewhat similar to the type found on Earth, or a moss somewhat similar to the moss found on Earth. We know there is life on Mars because photographs taken in the Martian "summer" and "winter" show how an area of green around the Martian poles advances towards the equator in summer, and retreats in the winter.

Those unwilling to believe might then concede that there is life on Mars, but still maintain that, apart from on Earth and Mars, there exists no other form of life. Again that is wrong, because it is quite possible that there is life on Venus, though how far advanced nobody knows, because the telescopes used on Earth cannot penetrate the cloud layer around Venus.

So far as life on other planets than those in our own solar system is concerned. Those who believe in God may say there is only life on Earth because God made it, but do they also believe that God would only make two or three puny planets with life on them? Surely not.

Those who do not believe in God might believe that life came about on Earth by chance. Because there were suitable conditions here, then, since there are so many planets, surely there must, if only by chance, be life on some of them because the conditions are suitable? Traces of organic matter have been found in meteorites that have hit the earth, and that organic matter must have come from some planet with life on it somewhere. If you still are not convinced that there is life on other planets, well, everyone to his own beliefs; it's a fairly free country.

W. EVERARD, 4A.

## THE SOUND OF REVOLUTION.

TODAY a violent revolution is taking place in the world. The earth is torn by a thunderous sound, a sound completely new to the human ear. That sound is changing the character of people everywhere.

The sound is, of course, the "Liverpool" sound, a delight to the ear, which is attacking the 'pop' world, for in the past few weeks there has been a renaissance of Liverpool talent. The "Top Ten" is filled by new Liverpool groups which practise the "sound", groups full of a new vigour and style.

One group stands out above all the rest, the Beatles. This group was formed by four Liverpool students who have a personality of their own. Their style of clothes, long hair (in French peasant style), Liverpool accents, and self-penned tunes have placed them at the top of the hit parade.

The group is full of vigour and vitality which is more than sensed by their audience. They do not use "echo" units with their guitars which gives a raw, metallic sound to them, the drummer is used only to keep time, and not like many other groups when he deafens the vocalist with his thumping and cymbal clashing, and they back their records with that old mouth organ which always sounds slightly out of tune. All these factors plus many more have put Liverpool at the top of the "pop" world and have helped Liverpool to produce the "sound".

A. J. ELLIOT, 4A.

## THE BEATLES.

THE four cavaliers of the pops,  
Their hairstyles being their pride,  
To their fans from the 'Pool they're the tops,  
Their sound flows in with the tide.

The four cavaliers of the pops,  
With John at the head of the group;  
Their records soon go at the shops,  
Because of the sound of this troupe.

There's George and his long dark hair  
Ringo and Paul form the rest;  
A place at the top will be theirs,  
Because of all groups they're the best.

M. SHAW, 3 Bx.

P. HADFIELD, 3 Bx.

## THE ANSWER.

PROF. Zargot soldered the final connection with gold.

The eyes of a dozen television cameras watched him, bearing the pictures of what he was doing throughout the universe.

He straightened and nodded to Doctor Knight, then moved beside the switch that would complete the circuit when he threw it. The switch that would connect all of the monster computing machines of all the populated planets in the universe—96 billion of them—into one circuit that would connect them all into one super calculator which combined all the knowledge of all the galaxies.

Doctor Knight spoke briefly to the watching millions. Then after a moment's silence he said, "Now Professor".

Prof. Zargot threw the switch. There was a mighty hum, the surge of power from 96 billion planets. Prof. Zargot stepped back and drew a deep breath. "The honour of asking the first question is yours, Doctor Knight."



"Thank you," he said, "It shall be a question no computer has been able to answer before."

He turned to face the machine.

"Is there a God?"

The mighty voice answered without hesitation, without the clicking of a single relay.

"Yes, NOW there is a God!"

Sudden fear flashed on the face of Prof. Zargot. He leaped to grab the switch. A bolt of lightning struck him down, from the cloudless sky and fused the switch shut.

Nothing could stop it!

C. HENDRY, 4A.

## *THE FLY FISHERMAN.*

CASTING and reeling all day long,  
The fisherman's reel rattles out its song.  
The fly goes flitting across the water,  
Leading the trout towards its slaughter.  
The trout sucks at the taunting line  
The fisherman's reel begins to whine.  
Against the current he battles his way —  
But all is safe for another day;  
The hook is out in a desperate leap,  
The trout dives back in the murky deep.  
The fisherman shakes his head in vain.  
A monster trout he will never again  
Manage to hook or even see  
Like that now happily swimming free.  
But he will go and tell the tale  
Of the monster fish that he did fail  
To catch on the eventful day —  
'The giant one that got away.'

A. ROBERTS, 3Bx.

## *FOX HUNTING.*

EVER since time began, man and beast have feared one another. Man, though, being of greater intelligence has learnt to live along-side his neighbour and understand lower animals. In early ages he would not think twice about killing an animal. Towards the Middle Ages he hunted and killed animals as a form of sport; these sports were so gory that they gained the name of blood-sports. Such sports as cock-fighting, fox-hunting, and bull fighting thrived among the less intelligent mobs who were so inured to violence by watching the weekly hangings, that soon became a frequent occurrence.

Towards the twentieth century, however, these cruel sports lost their popularity, excepting one, fox-hunting. Fox-hunting has, perhaps, retained its popularity because of its colourfulness, tradition, and mainly because it is a form of horse riding, which will always remain popular. The history of fox-hunting dates back to the angry farm-hands who would hunt the fox on foot after hens had been found dead. There was once a fox in Northumberland which plundered and killed animals at so many farms that the Earl of Northumberland asked everyone whom the fox had annoyed to meet at the edge of a forest. He also stated that everyone who was to take part, must wear red in order that every person who left the hunt for the fox could easily be seen and rejoined. This is probably the origin of the characteristic red hunting blazers now worn.

This hunt was a success and enjoyed by the participants. Its fame spread and soon everybody realised that organised hunts would not only relieve the farmer of a worry but also bring sporting fame to the hunt. Hopes became realizations and now foreigners from all over the world come to see the perfectly bred hounds, to hear the sound of the horns and to enjoy the colour and excitement of the hunt itself.

The excitement of the hunt rests entirely on one thing—the fox—and the hardships it may have to undergo. Once the fox is sighted, the leading huntsman gives two blasts on his horn. The chase is now on. The fox, realizing its peril, makes for its haven. The swift, aimful but bewildered mind, the baffled utterance and the contempt for man, who burdened it with this fateful race is now apparent in the eyes of the fleeing wretch. Hounds being physically endowed with the power of speed, soon overtake the fox and trap it. From here on the fox, out-numbered ridiculously, is literally eaten alive by the hounds. The huntsmen look on sometimes, protecting the fox's head as they wish to take it home as a prize for the hunt. It is this last episode of the hunt that gains fox-hunting so much ill-favoured criticism.

Who knows what makes fox-hunting so popular under these circumstances? I certainly do not. Perhaps it is the thrill of mastering one's horse or the excitement of the hunt. To some I am sure it is the bloody-thirty aspect of the gory end.

B. J. CORFE, 4A.

## *WATER MILLS IN WIRRAL.*

**T**HERE are few places so beautiful and popular in Wirral as Raby Mere. In spring, summer, and autumn or even winter when skating is possible, it attracts many people.

Raby Mere is not a natural lake. It was formed by building a dam from bank to bank, and allowing the tiny stream that comes from the direction of Willaston to collect. The road at the lake-end runs along the top of the old dam.

Raby Mere came into being so that the water-mill there could have ample power, and the local country-folk have their corn milled on the spot. This was important, for there were no mills in this locality then.

The old mill, or what is left of it, can be seen on the other side of the road, and the mill-leat runs beneath the highway from the mere to connect with the old water-wheel.

According to records, there used to be a date stone from 1601 on the old building. The mill has not worked for about 80 years.

When the wheel ceased to turn, the miller continued to live in the mill house, and he made his living by hiring boats out on the mill pool. This practice still continues today.

The water mill at Raby was not the first to be built in Wirral. Two miles down the stream was Bromborough Mill, which was worked at the time of William the Conqueror, and later became known as Spital Mill.

The most surprising water mill in Wirral was at Prenton, on the tiny stream that trickles across the golf-course and down to the Fender. This was also mentioned in Domesday Book. It did not last very long for the shortage of water must have caused the mill to be unused for weeks at a time.

The largest mill-pool that Wirral had was at Shotwick, at the head of the tiny valley known now as Shotwick Creek. The smallest was apparently on the tiny stream that runs on a parallel line with the Chester High Road. All traces of these mills and pools have disappeared.

According to some records Barnston once had a water-mill. This would have been built on the stream that flows in the dale near the village. No one knows the actual site, when it was built, or when it was pulled down, although there are several interesting old remains of buildings on the bank of the stream.

M. CLARKE, 3A.

## ***PROBLEM.***

**A** FARMER dies leaving 3 sons and 17 horses. In his will, one son is to receive a half of them, one a third, and one a ninth. How does the solicitor do it?

B. LAWRENCE, 4A.



## TWO VERSIONS OF MARTIAL IN CIPERUM.

**P**ISTOR qui fueras diu, Cipere,  
nunc causas agis et ducena quaeris;  
sed consumis, et usque mutuaris.  
A pistore, Cipere, non recedis;  
et panem facis, et facis farnam.

(Mark viii 16).

You, Jones, who baked our bread of late  
Have now become an advocate;  
And now for every case you plead  
A fee of two pounds ten you need:  
And yet you never have a sou,  
But always give an I.O.U.  
You still pursue the baking trade,  
But squander all the dough you've made.

## THOR.

**T**HE Thunder God went for a ride  
Upon his favourite filly.  
"I'm Thor" he cried.  
The horse replied,  
"You forgot your thaddle thilly!"

## IN VACERRA.

**M**IRARIS veteres, Vacerra, solos,  
nec ludas nisi mortuos poetas.  
Ignoscas petimus, Vacerra: tanti  
non est, ut placeam tibi, perire.

(Id. viii 69).

You think no poets should be read,  
Vacerra, save, perhaps, the dead.  
All right — but please don't think that I,  
To win your praise, intend to die.

R.H.S.

# INITIATIVE AND ENDURANCE TEST

## 1963.

### THE INTERVIEW: EDUCATION.

HAVING successfully completed the Edurance Test, we were informed that for the Initiative section we were to try and visit the Houses of Parliament and interview any M.P. as reporters for the Visor and get his or her views on educational reform. We therefore made an arrangement with our local M.P., Sir Hendrie Oakshott, Bt., M.B.E., M.P., who met us in the Houses of Parliament.

Sir Hendrie introduced us to Anthony Bourne Arton, M.P., the Hon. Secretary of the Conservative Education Committee, and the Hon. Secretary of the Conservative and Unionist Teachers' Association. While Sir Hendrie went to make arrangements to get us into the Galleries of the House of Commons, Mr. Bourne Arton led us out on to the terrace overlooking the Thames, and here we interviewed him about "Educational Reform".

"Well then," he said, "fire away. I hope I'll be able to give you the sort of answers you are looking for."

We firstly asked him for his views on the eleven-plus system of examinations, and whether or not he thought the eleven-plus was an adequate and justified method of selection.

He told us that the education system in this country is very dependent on its system of selection of pupils, and that methods of selection were very necessary throughout all stages of school life. He made it quite clear to us that he thought of the eleven-plus examination as just one in a series of similar selection examinations, and that if it were to be condemned, then all other similar examinations should be condemned with it. He said that there is even a method of selection when a child first becomes old enough to attend school, and that this is simply to find out whether the child is mentally fit to be sent to school at all. The next examination comes when the child is between seven and eight years old, and is designed to separate children into the ordinary primary schools or into special schools for backward or undeveloped children. Then comes the eleven-plus examination itself which he said is not particularly outstanding from any of the others but merely fits in with the necessary system of selection. He went on to add that if any examinations should be singled out as being important, then they should be the General Certificate of Education examinations. He said that these are far more important than the eleven-plus examinations because they deal with more advanced spheres of education. Mr. Bourne Arton summed up by saying that "it is a delusion to suppose it possible to get out of a system of selection completely".

While unsuccessfully trying to light his pipe, he commented that in various regions the grammar schools take a different percentage of pupils after the examination, and in those cases where they take a high percentage, the standards of the schools are academically very low.

We then asked him whether, in his estimation, comprehensive schooling could in any way solve this problem.

Quite enthusiastically, he told us that he had no objections to comprehensive schools and that he thought that some of them were quite excellent. He mentioned that children who would not normally be accepted by a grammar school, "make up to life" at the age of about thirteen and are able to make very good progress in comprehensive schools. After having discussed the stigma felt when a child does not manage to make the grade for a grammar school placing, he told us of his intense dislike of snobbery to do with a person's education and harshly criticised "the old school-tie brigade".

We then led on to the subject of school leaving age, and asked him for his opinion on whether or not it should be raised.

"Of course it should," he said, "and it is being raised". However, he said that it was not yet wise to decide whether a child should stop at school longer or not. In his opinion there will soon be only one school leaving age, but it is not yet time to introduce it.

On hearing this, we asked him whether, in his opinion, adequate provision is being made to cope with the growing problem of the lack of places available for students at universities.

He told us that in his estimation, adequate provision was indeed being made to provide university places for students. He explained to us that by 1972, the Government expenses to provide 170,000 more university places, and in his estimation this figure was quite sufficient. He had very strong views on this problem and said that some "stupid people" were talking about building at least forty new universities, instead of the six which are to be built in the near future. Some people argue that the standard of a university degree should be debased, but in his opinion, this would lead to a situation in which "everybody is somebody, and nobody is nobody."

We then turned to the subject of industrial education, and asked Mr. Bourne Arton on his views on the Budget proposal that the central government should give greater aid to local authorities who operate apprentice and students training schemes. He immediately mentioned the Robin's Report on further education and said that he hopes this report will find the most sensible way of "pulling a rocket behind business".

After having asked a number of other questions, which space forbids us to relate, Sir Hendrie Oakshott returned in time to give his comment that, "There is nothing radically needed yet."

We thanked both M.P.'s for the interview and for the cup of tea they bought us afterwards, and then Sir Hendrie led the way to the Galleries.

E. L. PYE and M. F. McNULTY.

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## THE INTERVIEW: CUBA.

WE were shown into a room smelling heavily of cigars and sat down to wait for our host to come. He was a tall, broad shouldered, young man with a sun tanned complexion and a good command of English. He told us that he had only been in England for two months and that his impressions, therefore, would be fresh ones.

To our question about our Parliamentary System, he replied that although he knew that we were the oldest and most important capitalist country in the world, he knew more about the democracy of the U.S.A. and he thought that it was too soon to comment about the British System.

He said that he thought England was the most civilised country in the world and he would like several aspects of our way of life for Cuba, although the basic system in Cuba is radically different to that of England. Our suntanned friend then quoted his favourite English quotation, "No matter how old a country, the people are always young."

He likes the British people and finds them most congenial and very similar to the Cuban people — though not physically.

About our people, he was very impressed by the Aldermaston marchers and the fact that most of them were young and belong to the proletarian class. He thought it was strange that they were not given the freedom of the streets c.f. a Royal Wedding or a military parade. The newspapers, he said, show much of the march but no map of the route of the march. He said that it would remain in his memory as most impressive.

The British coinage system, he finds, is very heavy and thinks that it is strange that the penny is so large.

Although in Cuba cricket is not played, he thinks it has a greater potential than baseball: more people of all ages who are not athletes can play it.

Although his impressions of the British scenery have been limited to Hampton Court, he thinks it is very beautiful, especially London, which is so full of lights at night.

He thinks the monarchy is an elegant expression of high society in Britain.

D. R. PRICHARD and G. H. WILLIAMS.

## ANSWER TO PROBLEM.

HE borrows one horse from a neighbouring farmer making 18 horses. Therefore each son receives 9, 6 and 2 horses respectively. These add up to 17 leaving one horse over which is given back to the farmer.

## THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

**D**URING this term, owing to the inconvenience caused by the re-buidling of the Junior School and to the pressure of examinations, the Geological Group of the Geographical Society has not been able to meet as usual.

However, during the earlier part of this term, a number of the members of the Geological Society were fortunate in having the opportunity to go with Mr. Taylor to Halkyn in North Wales. This trip proved very interesting, for at our first stopping place, a disused lead mine, we managed to find specimens of lead, zinc, and purple fluor-spar. We then visited another disused lead mine as well as a neighbouring chert quarry. Our last stopping place was near a small, exposed, limestone face. This rock face was covered with myriads of crinoids, brachiopods, and numerous other fossils. We managed to obtain a large number of fine specimens from this limestone, and were therefore very satisfied with our evening trip.

E.L.P. and G.N.

## THE GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO INGELBOROUGH.

**A**T 8-30 a.m. on Thursday, the 11th of April, a party of nineteen boys, ably led by four members of staff embarked upon their **annual** geographical and geological sortie.

Travelling to Ingelton by means of two especially hired mini-buses, we passed through the typical industrial and rural scenery of Lancashire and into the bleak uplands of Yorkshire. Having arrived at the small rural community of Ingelton at 11 o'clock we stretched our legs and partook of an early lunch.

Thus fortified we began our trek up the slopes of the mountain. We were a motley crew and the dress ranged from the full mountaineering equipment of the keener bretheren to the Italian-styled overcoat and winkle-pickers of Kellett.

The early climb proved invigorating and rather warm for Kellett who deposited his overcoat under a boulder (with the intention of collecting it on his return). After leaving the early slopes we began to see more evidence of the limestone scenery in the form of scree, potholes and vauculian springs. Following the valley of the Jenkinbeck we reached the White Scar pavement which exhibited all the features of limestone weathering—clints, grykes and lappies. Many of our party occupied themselves by collecting vast pieces of the millstone grit erratics on the pavement. From here we were to have progressed to the summit of Ingleborough but to our great disappointment the mountain top was steeped in swirling, sinister mist which made any attempt impossible.

Because of this our outing was cut short and we made our way across to Gaping Gill pothole which proved rather elusive even to Mr. Taylor. On the way we passed the last of the winter's snows. By now the rain was incessant and several of our party floundered in the dreaded bogs which hampered our progress. We passed several small potholes but it was not until we reached Gaping Gill itself that Mr. Taylor regained face. We stood for fully half an hour gazing in awe at the vast phenomenon of nature, and marvelling at its depth. From the surrounds of the pothole several of the hardier boys acquired access to veins of Calcite.

Realising that we still had a long walk ahead of us we started back to Ingleton passing Ingleborough Cave and some beautiful lake scenery en route. We reached the main road at the village of Clapham and began to walk back to Ingleton—the road was interminable and the rain unceasing. After over an hour's walk we reached Ingleton and the comparative warmth of our minibus; there was some anxiety over the fate of Mr. Taylor who had re-ascended the mountain slopes to retrieve Kellett's overcoat, and we were all relieved to see him come striding down through the mists undaunted.

After eating the remainder of our food we started back for home hampered by the faulty windscreen wipers of our vehicle. Throughout the homeward journey we discussed our geological specimens and some of the interesting aspects of the trek. We reached Birkenhead at 9 o'clock in the evening and retired home tired but satisfied.

BLAIR and RATCLIFFE, L6.

## ***THE MODEL MAKING CLUB.***

**T**HE Model Making Club has continued to meet each Friday evening during this term and the models which were begun in September are now almost complete. Attendance has dropped considerably since our first meetings but the enthusiasm of the boys left and of the new members has greatly increased. It is hoped that this enthusiasm will be repaid by the thrill of seeing the completed model aircraft flying before the end of term.

## THE VULTURE.

AS he glides with wrinkled brow,  
Waiting for the man to die,  
Sensing that the time is now,  
Down he ventures from the sky.

He rests upon the poor man's chest,  
And shrieks in triumph gay,  
His talons pierce the sweat-stained vest,  
And tear the flesh away.

E. MACDONALD, 2A.

## THE MOLE.

MOLE, mole burrowing deep  
In the forest while we sleep  
What immortal hand or spade  
Could dig as deep as thee?

In the far-away deeps and skies  
Did they hurt, your poor little eyes?  
In whose garden dare you dig,  
Making as much mess as a pig?

On what stones or hard roots  
Did you sharpen your digging boots?  
When your heart, strained, began to beat  
Did you for a while use your feet?

Was it the rabbit or the playful boy  
Who was the one, your home to destroy?  
Or it could have been the rain  
Which caused you to start all over again?

P. WHITEHEAD, 2A.



## INITIATIVE TEST.

### INTERVIEW WITH THE RT. HON. IAIN MCLEOD.

**T**HIS year's initiative test held during the Easter Holidays led Armstrong and myself to the metropolis of this our thriving country to seek out any Cabinet Minister. With influence in high places, all of which must be attributed to my friend, we were able to gain access to important people within the Conservative party (something which seems only too easy in the light of recent events).

Thus the Rt. Honorable Iain McLeod, Chairman of the Conservative Party and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave us an audience at the Party Headquarters in Smith Square. Over a strong cup of coffee we chatted with Mr. McLeod, and his friendly and helpful manner allowed us to overcome at once any inhibition we might have felt towards the seniority of his position. He discussed with us the significance of his now archaic title which today bears no responsibility; for his real office is as Chairman of the Conservative Party which position requires him to be a member of the Cabinet.

At the time of our interview, only a few days after the publication of the favourable Trade and Unemployment figures for March, Mr. McLeod was very optimistic and must have thought the Conservative Party outlook was an encouraging one. To meet the great challenges facing Britain, we were told, we must plan for efficiency. Efficiency in industry would be the key to success and if only strike action could be avoided (here he quoted one of the many strikes which mar the reputation of our own Cammell Laird's shipyard) foreign buyers would once again be able to put their faith in British heavy industry.

As we concluded our talk and left Mr. McLeod to his business, I was deeply impressed by this very modest man and almost became convinced by Conservative Party policy!

D. R. RATCLIFF, L6.

## SOUS L'OEIL DE LA FRANCE.

**A**LORS que l'année touche à sa fin, le Rédacteur en chef de ce vénérable magazine me fait l'épouvantable honneur de vouloir insérer, quelques-unes de mes impressions sur mon séjour dans cette école. Voilà bien l'issue fatale que je redoutais depuis longtemps; jugez de mon angoisse . . . choyé par les professeurs, grandement aidé dans mon travail par les élèves comme je l'ai été, je me vois dans l'obligation, au moment de m'exprimer, d'écrire éloges après éloges, remerciements après remerciements!

Les lecteurs seront certainement anxieux de savoir ce que ressent un pauvre assistant français soudainement plongé, si ce n'est noyé, dans un raz-de-marée britannique, condamné à vivre près de sept mois dans une salle des professeurs anglaise? Au lieu de répondre, je vous demanderai chers lecteurs, avez vous déjà questionné sur ses impressions, un taureau de combat soudainement lâché dans une arène des environs de Cadix? Vous allez dire que votre serviteur exagère et qu'il mérite bien sa réputation de "méridional blagueur". C'est possible, mais songez que si le taureau

est le représentant de la race bovine, je fus tout à coup transformé en responsable involontaire des idées et des actes de mon pays. C'est d'ailleurs bien ce qui faillit me couter la vie au cours du second trimestre, lorsque, du jour au lendemain, je me trouvai coupable (j'en suis encore tout étonné) d'avoir expulsé mes hôtes du Marché Commun! Mais votre serviteur a survécu avec quelques banderilles fichées dans l'échine, ayant de justesse échappé à la mise à mort. Le pauvre homme courbant sous le poids de la faute qu'il avait commise est allé jusqu'à envisager le suicide tellement la honte l'accablait. Cette fois ce fut la Mersey qui le sauva, car ayant décidé de se précipiter à l'eau, il trouva qu'elle était gelée. Heureusement le printemps est revenu et le petit français a pu revoir la vie sous un jour moins sombre. Mais il se souviendra que transformé en "homme-nation" il aurait pu devenir malgré lui un grand nationaliste glorifiant tout ce qui est français et méprisant tout ce qui touche Albion.

Je crois que pendant sa période de "Hard Times", il a aperçu ce qu'était la sagesse internationale, il a préféré chercher à s'adapter, à comprendre les gens parmi lesquels il vivait sans les critiquer. Quel progrès! Imaginez le maintenant, discutant du temps qu'il fait, se concentrant sur les mots croisés du "Times" tous les jours entre treize heures douze et treize heures quarante cinq minutes, tout en sirotant à petits coups une bonne tasse de thé; reconnaissez-vous l'assistant qui débarqua le trois septembre précédent avec une valise chargée de documentation et de préjugés? Il est devenu tellement "franco-britannique" qu'il se demande s'il ne vas pas être obligé de finir ses jours à naviguer sans cesse en "Flying Frenchman" sur le ferry-boat entre Douvres et Calais.... Ce n'est vraiment qu'à l'étranger qu'un homme peut tout apprendre sur son pays. De ce côté mon séjour à "l'Institute" aura été hautement éducatif. J'ai enfin pu découvrir que Toulouse, ma ville natale, est un grand port de mer, et que tous les français correspondent au même type physique: sont petits, dodus, et portent un petit béret. De même, je suis fermement persuadé qu'en revenant en France je vais aller vivre en compagnie de l'inspecteur Maigret et sa faune, et que ma nourriture journalière ne consistera qu'en cuisses de grenouilles et escargots farcis. Je sais que j'ai pu décevoir cent fois ou paraître anormal en le révélant, mais je n'ai encore jamais eu le privilège de goûter à l'un de ces mets. Vraiment mes compatriotes sont des gens étranges et ce n'est qu'avec ce bras de mer appelé la Manche placé entre eux et moi, que j'ai pu voir combien ils vivaient curieusement!

Je tiens aussi à remercier tous ceux qui dans cette école ont bien voulu me faire connaître quelques aspects inédits de la langue et de la littérature françaises. C'est grâce à vous tous, chers Lower 6th et Upper 6th, que j'ai enfin pu entendre le français tel qu'on le parle, que j'ai pu apprécier les beautés du subjonctif et les délices d'une tranche quotidienne de Balzac ou de Flaubert. Merci pour vos enseignements, car venu pour vous apprendre c'est par vous que j'ai tout appris!

Avant de quitter définitivement cette école, permettez moi encore de présenter mes respects à Monsieur le directeur et à tous les professeurs, et de souhaiter à tous les élèves d'excellentes vacances.

Mr. J. C. REDONNET.

# HOUSE NOTES.

## TATE.

THE Annual Sports, the Cross Country and the Cricket season have involved the House in considerable activity since the last report. The Cross Country races proved something of a disappointment as Tate finished third in each event. Individually, some boys performed well, notably in the Senior event. The House provided five out of the first eleven home including the winner, Keating, in a time of 33 mins. 11 secs. Unfortunately the lack of drive among those less athletically inclined cancelled out the efforts of the House leaders.

Sports Day was a triumph for Tate. The grip of Westminster on House activities was broken in the final series of relay races, a first class team effort in which Tate obtained three first places (1st year, 4th year and Open) and two second places (2nd and 3rd years). Tate were placed in 45 out of 55 events and had two places out of the first four in seventeen of the fifty events for individuals.

Outstanding among individual performances was that of McKittrick in becoming Victor Ludorum as a result of achieving first position in form events (100 yards, 220 yards, 110 yards hurdles, High Jump) and second in one (Long Jump).

Other pleasing performances were those of Callister, R., with two firsts, a second and a third, Howard with two firsts and a second, and Gunson with three firsts and a third.

The House cricket season is now well under way and the Tate team has had mixed fortunes. The Seniors, after a terrible display against Westminster, were perhaps unfortunate against Stitt but played with confidence in taming the Atkin attack and finishing victors. The Juniors appear to have a reasonable side theoretically but have lost their only encounter to date against Westminster in a match upset by rain.

## ATHLETICS.

**Pre Sports Training.** For six weeks prior to Sports Day, training was held four nights a week at the school field and House Trials, Preliminary heats and finally the Sports themselves, were held on the school field.

**Sports Day.** Details of sports Day appear under a separate heading but again the Ladies' Committee must be thanked for their catering, and on the cool April day parents, staff and boys were more than pleased to be able to purchase hot tea and snacks. The Athletics programme ran well to time and a number of new Best Performances were recorded. No School Records were broken.

**Town Tials.** This year two boys qualified for the Town team at the Cheshire Championships. This may not seem very many but only outstanding boys were entered and both the boys, on their Trial standard, would have finished in the first four at last year's championship meeting. G. Brown won the Town Intermediate Half Mile Championship in 2 min. 11.4 secs., which is only 4.9 secs. slower than the school record and Brown is still in the 5th form. R. Callister was second in the Junior Javelin with 136 ft. 2 ins. and second in the Junior Discus with 102 ft. 4 ins. It is hoped that both do well at Crewe on June 22nd. Other boys were placed in the first six.

**Standards.** Next year it is hoped to re-introduce a system of Athletic standards so that all boys may score Athletic points for their houses.

J.D.H.

## **THE TRAMPOLINE.**

IT'S a sad thought that in a school like ours, famous Old Boys, years of academic success, we should have such a small and old fashioned gymnasium which has also to serve a host of other activities. This thought, coupled with a desire to progress through our own efforts, prompted discussions, before last Christmas, about the possibilities of buying a trampoline. Preliminary enquiries were made and it was realised that something in the region of £250 was necessary to achieve our own. After early consultations with the Ladies' Committee, interested fathers, Staff and boys, it was decided to have an Easter Fair to try and raise the money. The dream eventually became reality and in May this year, six months after the original discussions, the school took delivery of a full sized, 13 ft. 4 ins Nylon Web Bed, trampoline. Naturally such a large and expensive piece of apparatus was the centre of intense interest and excitement and after two weeks every boy in the school, who was able, had his first few bounces. All realised that this sport, 'Rebound Tumbling', was exciting, exhilarating and comparatively safe. The Upper 6th formed a Friday club and before the exams began they remained until 6-0 p.m. on Friday nights learning Seat Drops, Swivel Hips and numerous other activities. The trampoline has also been used in the school yard and a class room but the long and bumpy pull round to the former did not appear to help the apparatus.

A team of P.E. students from Chester College gave a demonstration of advanced Rebound Tumbling one Friday after school and 150 Boys were thrilled to see back somersaults with twists performed with grace and ease by the students.

Trampolining is here to stay and no doubt we will shortly have an Inter-House Gym Competition with Rebound Tumbling as one part of it. As it gains in popularity it will eventually become an Inter-School sport. All at the Institute are proud of their efforts to raise the necessary money, every single boy helped. We are equally proud to be pioneers of this sport in Birkenhead schools.

J.D.H.

## *FIRST XI CRICKET.*

Holt High School—Won—B.I. 116 for 7 dec.; Holt 13.  
Wallasey Technical Grammar School—Won—Wallasey 72; B.I. 73 for 3.  
Rock Ferry High School—Lost—Rock Ferry 88; B.I. 55.  
Ellesmere Port Grammar School—Won—B.I. 84; Ellesmere Port 57.  
Wirral Grammar School—Drew—Wirral 116 for 7 dec.; B.I. 71 for 8.  
Wellington School—Won—B.I. 100; Wellington 49.  
Calday Grange Grammar School—Lost—B.I. 25; Calday 26 for 3.  
Quarry Bank High School—Won—B.I. 64; Quarry Bank 58.

**T**HE weather at the start of the season was somewhat better than usual and enabled practices to be held in the Easter holidays.

The first match was against Holt High School. B.I. batted first and declared at 116 for 7, McNulty having made 36 and Kevan 28. Holt were all out for 13 runs, Roy Parry taking 5 for 6 and Philip Parry 4 for 2.

In the match against Wallasey Technical Grammar School, the visitors were all out for 72, Roy Parry taking 9 wickets for 28 runs. This score was passed for the loss of 3 wickets, Kevan hitting 35 and Ratcliff 19 not out.

The first loss of the season came with the game against Rock Ferry High School, the home side making 88, Roy Parry taking 6 for 43. B.I. reached 43 for the loss of 2 wickets but then the batting fell away sadly, the School being all out for 55, Kevan having made 25.

Another win came in the match against Ellesmere Port Grammar School, B.I. making 84, Clays hitting 24. The visitors were all out for 57, Brown taking 4 wickets for 4 runs.

The result was a draw at Wirral Grammar School, Wirral declaring at 116 for 7. At one time B.I. were 7 wickets down for 42 but stumps were drawn at 71 for 8, this being due largely to a very good stand between Brown and Roy Parry.

Against Wellington School, B.I. lost 7 wickets for 28 runs and a total of 40 looked out of the question. However, due mainly to an innings of 38 by Clays, a total of 100 was reached. Wellington were all out for 49, Brown taking 4 wickets for 8 runs.

A disastrous start against Calday found the School with 3 wickets lost without a run scored and the batting never recovered, the final total being only 25. Calday passed this for the loss of 3 wickets.

The match against Quarry Bank High School proved to be one of the most exciting this season. B.I. batted first and scored 64 runs. Quarry Bank were at one time 40 runs for 9 wickets and all except their last two batsmen accepted that B.I. would win. These two worthies however played extremely well and took the score to 58 before a brilliant catch by Ratcliff finished the game, which had already produced first rate catches by Kevan and McKittrick.

The thanks of the team are due to the ladies' committee who have provided teas at all home games, the groundsman for his work on the square and Forshaw for his in the score book.

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**T**HE Club at 40 Argyle Street has recently taken on a new lease of life and the Committee are exploring the possibility of acquiring the premises next door in order to extend the facilities available to members. The Club is open to members and their guests on Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 7-30 p.m. to 10-45 p.m.

The annual cricket match against the School is to be played at Ingleborough Road on the evenings of Monday and Tuesday, 15th and 16th of July.

Once again the Headmaster has invited a representative of the Association to the School on the last day of the summer term to present the Old Boys' Sports Prizes.

The Committee take this opportunity of reminding members of the large range of Old Instonian goods which can be obtained from Messrs. Bibby and Perkin, Grange Road, Birkenhead. This includes the Association tie (black with open gold visors in diagonal lines, in a new and much improved material, for which an Association membership card must be produced), scarves, tie pins, cuff links, tankards and car badges.

Visor is pleased to report the admission to membership of the British Empire of Mr. Leonard Cowan in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List and the appointment to the managership of the Heywoods branch of Martins Bank of Mr. B. Bithell.

It is with regret we record the deaths of Mr. Andrew Boyd and Mr. F. Heslop.



# **OLD INSTONIANS R.U.F.C.**

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**T**HE Season 1962/63 proved to be fairly disastrous from the Rugby point of view, not so much as far as the results were concerned, but due to the Arctic winter which caused no less than 10 weeks fixtures to be cancelled. The playing record was poor last season with the first team winning, I think, five games and drawing two. The games lost shall remain numberless. However, this was expected to some degree as the pitches at our new ground could not be played on and the pavilion was only about three parts complete during the first part of the season. Consequently morale among the playing members was somewhat low with having no proper training facilities during the closed season and not knowing on which pitch they would be playing from one week to the next. I must emphasise at this stage that even with all the difficulties which we encountered the Club fielded three sides each week the weather permitted us to play. One must record here our thanks to the schoolboys who turned out to play for us, some of whom did not play at home on any occasion.

Season 1963/64 sees the first full season on our new ground and we trust therefore that it will be a successful one. The Palivion is now virtually complete and has two large changing rooms, each of which can comfortably accommodate two full rugby teams, two large baths and two showers. In addition it has a spacious lounge, fitted with a very modern bar. The playing area comfortably accommodates two full-sized rugby pitches which have been levelled, drained and seeded.

In an effort to have a successful playing season we are starting training somewhat earlier than usual. Training commenced on Friday, 28th June, at 7-0 p.m., and every Friday thereafter. It is intended to increase training to two nights per week and introduce Sunday training which will be in the form of a day out at either West Kirby or Red Rocks beach. In addition Saturday afternoon training will be started nearer the start of the season and a Club Seven-a-Side tournament will be held during August.

You will see from the above that every effort is being made to ensure the best possible results and to this end we invite every schoolboy who is interested to come and join us. The headmaster is in possession of associate membership enrolment cards although if interested boys just come along they will be made most welcome.

Boys not interested in playing rugby are also welcome as we also have a Club social evening every Friday at which table tennis and darts matches are arranged. In addition we also run a monthly dance which is most enjoyable.

On the financial side, things are far brighter than they were at this time last season, although our treasurer still insists on wearing dark glasses every time he looks at the accounts. The shade of red has now, however, somewhat softened to a pale salmon pink.

In closing we must again extend our most sincere thanks to the Headmaster and the Education authorities for the help which they gave us in providing playing pitches during last season.

J.G.W.

## **OLD INSTONIANS GOLFING SOCIETY.**

**T**HE annual golf competition for the "W. J. Pyke Cup" took place on Thursday, 6th June, at the Leasowe Golf Club. Good weather—apart from a heavy thundery shower—attended the event and, although the number of competitors fell short of the 1962, it was voted a most successful and pleasurable occasion. Following the wishes of the majority, the competition was run as a Stableford and Mr. Ronnie Delf is to be congratulated on his win with 32 points.

Leading returns: Ronnie Delf 32 points, Harold Owen 29, Frank Jobson 28, Alec Douglas 28, Jack Collinson 27, Orrell Davies 26, Jim McCoy 26, Jim Almond 23, Paul Simpson 21, Doug. Whalley 21.

After a meal in the evening, the Cup was kindly presented by Mr. L. T. Malcolm, Chairman of the Old Instoinans' Association. An absentee from the proceedings was Mr. Leslie Kettlewell, a staunch supporter of previous golf competitions. He was unable to attend because of illness and a toast was drunk to his speedy recovery.

A new secretary was elected to succeed Mr. Harold Owen. He is Mr. Paul Simpson of "Fairways", Forest Close, Meols. It is probable that the 1964 competition will be held at the Wirral Ladies' Golf Club towards the end of May and Old Boys who are interested should send their names to the secretary for inclusion in his mailing list.

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