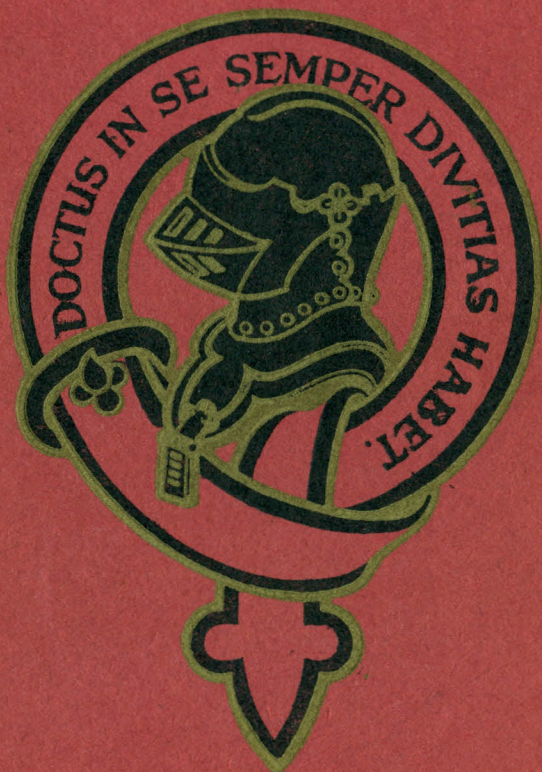


THE VISOR



**MAGAZINE OF
BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE**

SPRING, 1964.

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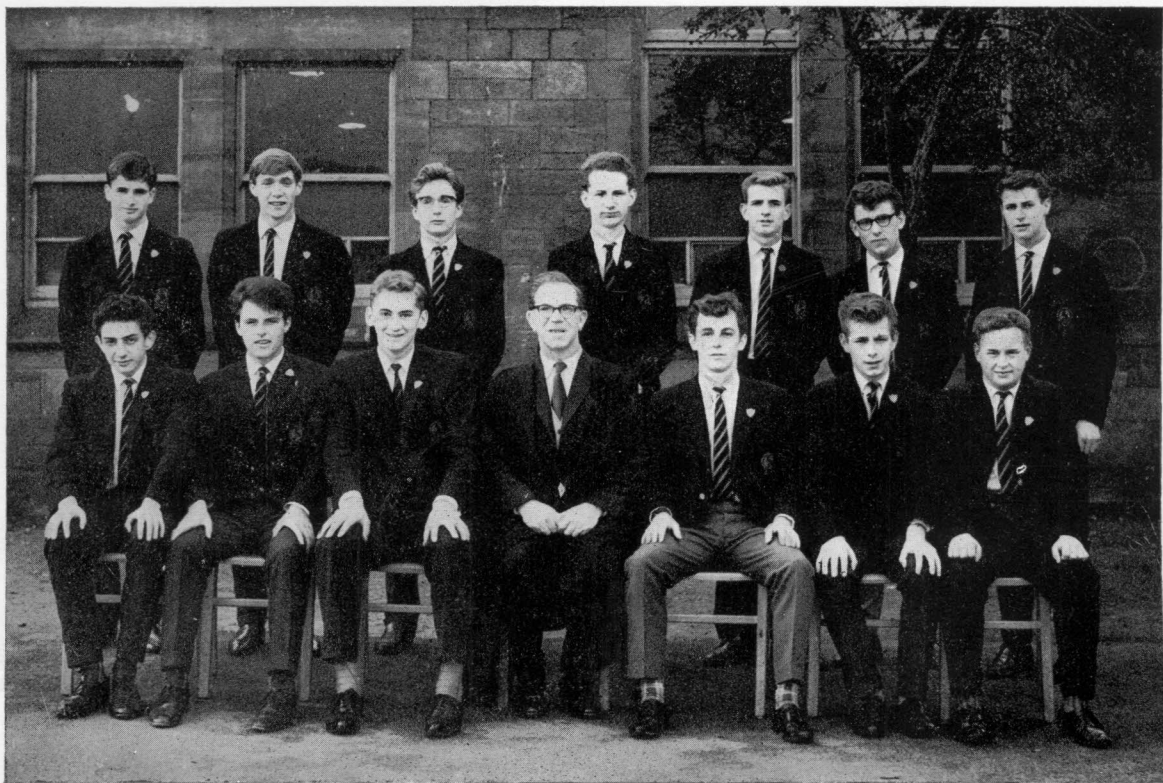
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EDITORIAL.

THIS is the last of the termly "Visors". After this, it will be issued only once a year but in a much improved format. Plans are being made for the new editions which, it is hoped, will be more lively and more interesting than a termly magazine inevitably turned out in haste at the end of a term. An article in this issue returns to the matter.

To fill the gap, however, we welcome our young brother, "The Advisor" which was born in the middle of January with a highly controversial first issue as the school newspaper. Plans are to produce this piece of journalism fortnightly as a medium for bubbling writers throughout the School who are too impatient to wait for the Visor and whose views must be put in print almost at once. We wish this venture every success.

THE WILFRED OWEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

THE poetry of Wilfred Owen is the achievement of a fine man killed tragically at the age of 25 in the First World War. Wilfred Owen's reputation is now widespread; his poems are read all over the world.

Perhaps one or two quotations will illustrate the admiration felt for Wilfred Owen and the recognition that his poetry has great relevance for us all. Mr. J. Middleton Murry, as early as 1919, speaking of Owen's splendid "Strange Meeting" wrote:

"We are persuaded that this poem by a boy like his great forerunner (Keats), who had the certainty of death in his heart, is the most magnificent expression of the emotional significance of the war that has yet been achieved in English poetry."

It is interesting to remember that Mr. Murry was a man of perceptive judgment; he was the first to accredit D. H. Lawrence with genius.

The influence of Wilfred Owen upon English poets is best illustrated by the fact that three notable poets, Mr. Siegfried Sassoon, Mr. Edmund Blunden, and Mr. C. Day Lewis, have taken the trouble to edit his poems. Indeed many Twentieth Century English poets, particularly Mr. Stephen Spender and Mr. W. H. Auden, openly acknowledge the influence Owen has had on their work.

It is not in the world of English poetry and letters that Wilfred Owen should be most acclaimed, although he is undoubtedly a very fine poet. In his famous Preface Wilfred particularly disclaimed association with the artificial beauties of poetry. He dealt with the problems of normal men and women, and it was for them he wrote. If the man unused to reading poems were to read Wilfred Owen's work he would easily understand what Wilfred meant. Wilfred Owen was never a wilfully clever writer because he wrote lucidly and directly for a single purpose, to awaken pity. He wrote on behalf of the unexceptional soldier in the trenches, whose cause he pleaded so eloquently.

The Wilfred Owen Memorial Library, which has been subscribed towards by parents, boys, and friends of Birkenhead Institute, honours the memory of one of the school's most illustrious old boys. Donations of money, books, and souvenirs of the First World War are still welcome to make a worthy tribute. It is hoped the Library will display any items that may be acquired connected with either the life of Wilfred Owen himself or the First World War in which he fought.

If the Library can focus attention to the principles Wilfred Owen cherished then it will have succeeded in achieving its purpose. In one of his poems Wilfred said that he wanted no "florid scree" as a memorial; if he should die he wished to be remembered in the hearts of friends. When the boys of Birkenhead Institute use the Library dedicated to him they will think of this and muse upon the life of a man who wrote so magnificently and died so gallantly. Although he was in spirit a pacifist and detested war, he served his country nobly, winning the Military Cross. He was a soldier by circumstance, a lover of his fellow-men by nature.

T.J.W.

THE SCHOOL PLAY:

THE FIRE RAISERS.

THE School Dramatic Society followed its successful Revue of the Summer Term with a performance of Max Frisch's controversial play, "The Fire Raisers," in Beechcroft on November 27th, 28th, and 29th. This provided further evidence of the interest stimulated by Mr. H. L. Gray in dramatic activity.

"The Fire Raisers," first produced in England in 1961, has the reputation of being a witty and original entertainment that demands thought from an audience. Because of its experimental techniques it is notable that such a play was chosen for a school production.

The power of "The Fire Raisers" depends upon how successfully the cast sustains the audience's interest in Biedermann's dilemma; the audience must participate in his growing malaise as he finds out his mistake. Although we may laugh at Biedermann and dismiss the actions of Schmitz and Eisenring as an absurd joke we must finally understand that it is our own folly we are laughing at. The difficulty for the cast is one of enabling the audience to come to a gradual realisation; the effect of the play is a cumulative one.

Mr. Gray's production realised these objectives because the cast was well-chosen and the visual and auditory effects combined well. The production conveyed the mixture of levity and horror that the author intended.

Herr and Frau Biedermann were played by E. Case and V. Hodgson. Case was an admirable portrayal of Biedermann. He managed to surmount the difficulty his part presented, the transition from a man sure of his authority to one so demoralised that he would do anything to accommodate his dangerous guests. His acting was good; particularly impressive was his resonant and clear voice. V. Hodgson, as Babette, although not having appeared previously in the Revue like most of the other major characters, is well-known for his success in musical activities. His training as a vocalist certainly assisted him for he displayed subtle modulations of tone and a clarity of voice that augur well, in his part as Biedermann's wife. His acting was assured so that altogether he performed delicately.

L. K. H.-Smith and A. Blair were effective fire-raisers. Blair, as Schmitz, was a refreshing comedy actor. His humorous dexterity in talking his way into Biedermann's house and his amusing behaviour on the two occasions he was at table were well received by the audience. He conveyed well the brashness and impudence expected from the son of a charcoal burner. Smith, as Eisenring, established his supremacy over Schmitz by treating him on occasions like a naughty schoolboy. While maintaining great vigour, he was successful in being the "brains" behind the fire raisers. He acted in a very lively way, and, when called upon either to flatter Biedermann with mock-deference or exploit Babette's hospitality with talk of previous dangerous deeds, he succeeded forcefully.

The other characters with less opportunities to stamp their personalities on the production performed competently. D. Young, as the Doctor of Philosophy, was amusing when reading out the list of new-arrivals in Hell: his volatile movements emphasised the confusion that was disrupting Satan's kingdom; Rogers acted phlegmatically and was a convincing Anna; J. Gregory was a comical policeman who looked particularly amusing in his angel's wings and gave an entertaining performance; Widow Knechtling, played by McLaughlin, was an appropriately sad figure.

The Chorus was well led by Kellett who was a rugged Chief Fireman. The other Firemen were Brown, Henderson, Milnes, Newbold and Daniels who tried hard but found difficulty with the lyrical passages. The Chorus had a difficult role to perform since they foretold the inexorable disaster and commented on Biedermann's folly.

The stage-crew and designers worked hard and imaginatively as a team, which resulted in a colourful, well-lit stage and good sound effects. Messrs. Jones, McBride, and Holt (Painting and Scenic Design), Messrs. Richards and Armstrong (Lighting), Messrs. Carter, Clark, White, Harding (Stage Construction), Miss Wikely (Costumes), Mr. Townsend (Make-up), Messrs. Crighton and Scott (Sound Effects), and J. T. Johnson (Stage Manager) all deserve thanks.

As Producer, Mr. H. L. Gray worked hard in inspiring actors and correlating backstage effects. The results, a delightful and well-attended play, justified his efforts. We hope he will undertake other enterprising ventures in the near future.

T.J.W.

MEMORIES.

HE hangs his head in sadness,
His life-long love has gone,
Out of his heart goes gladness,
Out of his life the sun.

No more her cheerful greeting
Will meet him at the door,
Her love and sweet devotion
Will spur him on no more.

Fame and Fortune he forgets,
His thoughts go back in years,
Poverty and restrictions
Brought heartaches, pains, and tears.

Yet happiness was theirs just then,
And loving tenderness.
Oh, how his heart is aching for
Her love and warm caress.

A. BURKEY, 4Y.

THE SCHOOL TRIP TO DENMARK 1963

THE school trip started when the party met at Lime Street Station on the morning of Sunday, August the 18th. The party consisted of twenty seven boys, Mr. Malcolm and Mr. Hughes.

We travelled to Harwich by train, going via London. When we embarked upon the ship there were before us eighteen hours of sailing, and by ten o'clock that Sunday evening all but two or three of the boys had been, or were in the process of being, sea-sick.

When we docked at Esbjerg, we travelled by train across Jutland and, by crossing the Little Belt by bridge, onto Funen, where we spent the first night at Odense.

There we were very fortunate to be conducted around its new town hall, which was almost a palace of modern architecture and art. It contained ceilings and walls which were made, in an almost mosaic-like way, of tiny blocks of wood, and it contained its own concert hall and marriage bureau.

From there we were taken to a Danish school where we were greeted by the headmaster, who was dressed in black shirt and pointed shoes and was smoking a cigar. He, like many of the other Danes we met, was very proud of Denmark's new buildings and he was more than willing to take us round his school which, we learned, could hold twelve hundred pupils and was co-educational, as are most Danish schools. The school even had its own medical staff, with a resident doctor and dentist. Children do not start school in Denmark until they are seven years old, and even then they work fewer hours per day than we do, ending sometimes between one and two o'clock in the afternoon. Before leaving the school, some of us ventured into the playground where we were surrounded by most of the pupils. Because the boys on the continent have very short hair, the pupils repeatedly asked some of us whether we were boys or girls.

In the afternoon, before catching the train to Copenhagen, we visited the Hans Christian Andersen Museum which was filled with tourists of many nationalities.

Then we finished our journey by crossing onto Zealand and going to Copenhagen by train. During all of our journeys I was greatly impressed by the speed and efficiency of the Danish railways and also by the cleanliness of all the towns, although no litter bins seemed to be provided.

When we arrived in Copenhagen we were taken by coach to Karlslunde where we were to stay. We stayed at a form of holiday camp for we slept two to a chalet and we met for our meals in a large dining room. The chalets were very clean and modern and showers were provided at the ends of the rows of chalets.

The only difficulty I found was that the beds were completely different from those at home. Instead of sheets and blankets which you could tuck in, you were provided with an eiderdown and a blanket which you wrapped around you the best you could. Most mornings, however, I awoke shivering, only to find them on the floor.

We found the Danish food to be excellent and it was served in abundance. Although it was generally spicy, the food was not unlike that which is served at home. The Danish speciality was the "Smorrebrod" or open sandwich. One small item that pleased most of us was the poppy seeds which were sprinkled onto the crust of the bread.

The chalets were very close to the Baltic and often we went swimming in the water, which was not as cold as we had expected. It was also somewhat of a surprise to find the beach coated with that somewhat rare substance called sand. One day we played handball on the beach against a party of German youths and, although we lost, we enjoyed the game tremendously.

While in Copenhagen we visited most of the places of interest, especially the Tivoli Gardens. We visited these twice and thoroughly enjoyed the open-air theatres, where ballet, pantomime and acrobatics were performed. One evening we stayed there until midnight so that we might watch a firework display.

Other places of interest that we visited were the War Museum and the Carlsberg factories, and also we went on a motor launch trip of Copenhagen harbour and passed the famous ship building yards of Burmeister and Wein. During a trip to Sweden we visited Elsinore and saw the castle where Hamlet is supposed to have lived.

Throughout the train journey home I noticed how completely different the Danish countryside is to ours. Instead of hedges and ditches there were electric fences and the fields were small and flat. Many cattle were tethered to stakes so that they might eat the minimum amount of grass.

The ship voyage home was uneventful but, as we sailed out of Esbjerg after a twelve day stay, most of us felt slightly sad at leaving.

A. J. ELLIOTT, 5A.

BEATLEISTICS.

THE Beatles are my favourite group,
They're far, far better than any other troupe,
Their hair is in the modern style,
Just to match George's smile.
Guitars they play with fervent hands,
And its very good the way John stands.
They come from around the Cavern slums,
But everyone agrees Ringo can really play his drums,
The sound is hard and sometimes drawl,
But that great bass sound is made by Paul.
John's singing of "Twist and Shout",
Really sounds like a boxing bout.
When Paul sings "From Me to You",
It shows he's got the teenager in view.
George and Ringo provide most of the backing,
But there's one word they'll never be lacking,
YEAH! YEAH! YEAH! YEAH!

A. DIAMOND, 4B(y)

TEAM WORK.

NEW ventures bring with them excitement. Last Easter we "all" participated in a splendid fair which resulted in sufficient funds to purchase our trampoline. Last term it was the turn of the Dramatic Society with their excellent production of a difficult play, "The Fire Raisers". Although confined to fewer people than the fair, it perhaps required even more work in order to make it a success.

When I say that it is a difficult play I mean that to achieve a sympathetic interpretation is difficult and also it is difficult for the audience, without being familiar with the story, to grasp its message and to respond to the subtleties of the script.

How these difficulties were overcome proves how successfully Mr. Gray brought out the best from the actors and just how readily they in their turn learnt and understood their parts. But the importance of such activities as these lie in the team work and the effort that produces them.

Besides the players on the stage there were also the scientists experimenting with lights, sounds and visual effects; the woodworkers and less skilled hammer-weilders constructing the set, and the artists slapping paint on anything which failed to move. There were boys from the third form and boys from the sixth working in harmony with various masters and all pleasurably participating in the final achievement.

This coming term we have not only the opening of the Wifred Owen Memorial Library but also another exciting project afoot — a new format for the school magazine — almost one could say a new magazine.

The old Visor — and I use the adjective with reverence — had become a somewhat stereotyped production and because of this we were apt to treat its familiarity with contempt.

The new magazine will be exciting with a new cover design — perhaps with each issue; illustrations by the art department and a much wider range of contributions from more and more people. This latest undertaking is something big to look forward to and call once more for enthusiasm and co-operation from all departments of the school in making it a success.

D.J.

SUCCESSFUL POET AT B.I.

UP till now very little has been known about the childhood of Wilfred Owen, First World War poet, who was killed a mere seven days before the armistice that ended the war. We do know however that he was educated at our school, the Birkenhead Institute.

The apparent assumption that the Institute lay to the north of the Mersey was an indication of the general lack of knowledge about Owen's early life until the present day.

Wilfred was the eldest of four children and when the family came to Birkenhead in 1898 they were welcomed to their first home by armies of black beetles. During this early period of their stay they were not well off, existing on the meagre income earned from the father's job on the railway, although they were fortunate compared with many of the poorer families around them. The family also suffered from another misfortune. They never liked the neighbourhood or became part of it, and whenever the children went out to play they were taunted and jeered at by groups of other youngsters.

Happier times came however when they moved to a better home in Milton Street and it was at that time that both Wilfred and his brother Harold attended the Institute, the finest school in these parts. Both Harold and the two other children grew up under the influence of their elder brother's brilliance, and it was not surprising that Harold had a fiery temper which earned him the nickname of the "Birkenhead Bullfighter".

In 1907 the Owens left Birkenhead for Shrewsbury, where the shortage of places in schools set a big problem, and soon after the difficulty of finding a career for Wilfred arose.

By 1911 when Wilfred was 18 he had developed a love for poetry, and was already learning phrases from famous poems, the ideas of which he later used in much of his work which made him famous, until he was killed in 1918 at the age of 25.

M. CLARKE, 4A.

WHITER THAN WHITE.

BEFORE you settle down for the night take a look at your carpet. Is it dirty? Does it need a shampoo? It does? Then you need 1002, the best and most economical all-job cleaner. 1002 cleans a big, BIG, carpet for less than half the price of a new carpet. Well, after that job you should celebrate; BUT, have you got Close-Up Confidence? Are you sure people don't whisper things about you? It's better to be sure than sorry so use Soapo, of course. Soapo contains new Bicontratic Oxyphasphate in C minor. After a bath with Soapo all the young ladies will flock around you. And the rent men; And the tax collectors, and the insurance men, and every parasite known.

While I write or work I like to have a mug of 'Ben's Tea' at my side. Why do I prefer Ben's Tea? Well it is made, brewed and bottled in the factory. You buy it in a bottle and all you have to do is simply test the bottle. Whoops! Oh, Dear! I've spilt some tea on my white shirt. Well, it doesn't matter because my wife uses Perso, containing hexahoxide maguminium phoside. It is recommended by the makers, so it must be good.

Have you tried Cruncho yet? Cruncho is the new sweet bar. It contains nuts, fruit, chocolate and a mouthwash in the stripe. H.P. terms can be arranged and with every bar you receive a free packet of "Uncle Charlie's" indigestion pills. They bring quick, effective relief to your stomach. You may then get a headache, but don't worry, just buy a packet of "Uncle Charlie's" head-ache pills to get rid of that half-a-dozen degrees under feeling.

P. ALLEN, 4A.

WHY DOES GOD PERMIT SUFFERING?

THIS question is surely one of the most controversial in and out of the Christian faith. Outside the faith it proves to be one of the greatest difficulties for belief and inside the faith it is one of the questions which are still not satisfactorily answered. Following is a synopsis of the arguments which Christians make, and whether they are valid or not is a matter for you to decide.

The basic question does not arise unless we believe in a God who is good, but if this assumption is made, it is difficult to grasp why there has been so much pain and suffering in this world. However it is interesting to note here that belief in God's goodness developed through past centuries with extreme experiences of pain, and that it appears that faith has been inspired rather than injured. In fact many people have been converted to Christianity as a direct result of pain and suffering, but this to me is a very poor reason for conversion. Would those people have been converted if circumstances had been different?

Another interesting line of argument is that in which a world without pain is imagined. Christians hypothesise that in such a world all virtues such as patience, endurance, fortitude, and self-sacrifice would be lost and that, "The full beauty and development of christian character would be impossible as suffering is an important ingredient of life". They also suggest that pain helps us to avoid more serious physical illnesses by quickly learning that it is harmful to hit one's thumb with a hammer, and that many scientific and sociological discoveries have been made by experiences of pain. But these observations, while being true, are only convenient scapegoats trying to shield the basic question and not to answer it.

But, "man was originally created in perfection to be a child of God," and so because man is now a fallen creature and conditions are not as God made them, then painful clashes with God are inevitable. An illustration of this is found in wars. Who is responsible? is it God? Does he take pleasure in this? Christians answer this with a quotation from St. James:

"Whence come wars, and whence come fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your pleasures that was in your members? Ye lust, and have not; ye kill, and covet, and cannot obtain."

From this it follows, even though war and pain is over, that we persist in the very acts that lead to war, and to a certain extent the christian's view of this is understandable simply from disciplinary viewpoints. But because man is a social creature, it is his lot to share in the misfortunes and blessings of his life, and so a drunkard who is punished for his pleasures often disregards the pain which his family have to bear. So why should God punish innocent people?

However one item which must not be forgotten is that Christians themselves do not escape from pain. In Jesus' own words:

"Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you,"
and,

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me."

But Christianity's main answer to the problem is that God himself shares our suffering, and that anything in which God so intimately shares cannot be evil. They continue saying that the God we worship is the God who, at the cross, was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. Through suffering God has been able to reveal himself and to accomplish something in the hearts of men that would never have been possible without suffering. Pain is hard to bear when it seems devoid of meaning and purpose, but if the Christian thinks of the cross, meaning and purpose are there.

G. ARMSTRONG, U6.

GEOLOGY: GRANITE ROCK.

THE commonest of the massive, coarse-grained rocks that occur in the more rugged parts of Britain is granite, and for this reason, it was chosen by Mr. Taylor as the subject for the only meeting of the Geological Society during the Autumn Term.

Granite is familiar almost everywhere, either as a building material, or as a polished, monumental stone, forming, in competition with serpentine, many of the shop facings in Liverpool, as well as gravestones in the local cemeteries. At first this rock appears as a white, black and pink mass, rough and hard to the touch, but closer inspection reveals it to be composed of many tiny crystals, interspersed here and there with a crystal of larger dimensions. At least three entirely different types of crystal are distinguishable.

The predominating type, which gives the rock its colour, is felspar, being either white or pink. Its crystals are mostly small, but many of the granites of Cornwall are an exception to this, containing exceptionally large crystals of felspar. The tiny black specks to be seen sparkling in the granite are mica, and intermingled with the felspar and mica are crystals of a grey substance, quartz.

Granite is an example of an igneous rock, formed by the cooling of a mass of molten material within the earth's crust. When injected into the crust, it did not manage to reach the surface, for the size and perfection of its crystals show the extreme slowness with which it cooled.

Once exposed, however, granite is readily attacked by the elements. First of all the felspar slowly softens, and the unaffected crystals of quartz and mica loosen and fall away. Washed by rains into streams, they are carried in rivers to the sea, where, rounded by friction and discoloured, they form grains of sand. The felspar is left as china clay, and great hillocks of this material are a common sight in Cornwall where large quantities of it are mined.

Because granite is hard, it naturally produces bold, rugged scenery, such as the moors of Cornwall and most of the moors of Devon. Land's End forms the remains of a granite batholith, but its towering cliffs cannot defy the onslaught of the Atlantic breakers, and hard as this rock is, it is slowly being destroyed by the encroaching waves.

E. L. PYE, L6.

LAKE DISTRICT WEEKEND: (NOV. 2—4, 1963)

DESPITE the fact that the handbrake was not functioning properly and that the roads were narrow, tortuous and hilly, our minibus arrived at the foot of Cat Bells without mishap. The party of eight boys and four adults poured out, the former much faster than the latter, and prepared for the assault, the first of the trip.

The going was fairly easy and soon we reached the summit, from which marvellous views of Keswick and Lake Derwentwater were seen. A red glow spread over the distant mountains as the November sun set. A quick descent of the fern covered slopes was made and soon the party was joyfully riding towards the hostel singing the latest Beatles' songs.

On the following day, Sunday, we left the minibus at the foot of the Honister Pass and proceeded to walk up its steep road as far as the Honister Youth Hostel. After a strenuous climb over Green Gable and Great Gable, we stood looking out over a wide expanse of red scree extending for about half a mile.

The slope looked frightening but we proceeded to clamber down a rocky slope to the scree. Suddenly a large rock rolled down the slope, into the air and fell slowly towards the head of one of the party below. As if by a miracle the rock missed and we carried on with our descent.

Mr. Richards told us how to descend the scree, which is a steep slope composed of small pieces of rock, and intrepidly the descent was begun. The feeling as one descends is one of fear and enjoyment. The speed is almost terrifying but extremely exciting. All the party reached the bottom without even a thermos flask being broken. Compared with this, the rest of the walk was unexciting and soon after we were enjoying a hostel dinner.

On our last day we ascended Hellvellyn by crossing Striding Edge and descended via Swirrel Edge. Striding Edge is a ridge with a very narrow top and steep sides. As it was misty, the sides seemed to fall away to emptiness and this gave a terrifying effect. When we reached the summit, the highest point in the Lake District, the mist was so thick that we could see nothing of the Lakes except for the few square yards of earth on which we were standing.

All too soon we had reached our minibus and were driving to Birkenhead and home. On behalf of those who went on the trip I should like to thank Mr. Richards for making it all possible and for his expert guidance. I am sure that he can rest assured that there will be a long list of names for the Wales weekend this term.

G. NEWBOLD.

THERE was a young girl of old Naches,
Whose garments were always in patches,
When statement arose on the state of her clothes,
She drawled, 'When ah itchez, ah scrachez!'

A. FRANCE, 2R.

A SOCIAL CONTRADICTION.

DURING the years which succeeded the last World War many rural areas of Britain were transformed by soaring patterns of concrete and glass into totally new concepts of living. From the drawing boards of architectural inspiration and finally out of the reality of building-site mud there has arisen a modern social unit — the council housing estate.

Its foundations, paradoxically, may be discovered among the ashes of post-war Britain. With the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945 the planners of our towns and cities were faced with what seemed and still seems an insurmountable task: the replanning of chaos, 500,000 houses being seriously damaged and many destroyed completely.

To complicate this there has been the tremendous explosion of population since then. Thus, time was re-housing's worst enemy and the only solution lay in the undertaking of a constructional "beat-the-clock".

However, despite the sometimes stirring achievements of the city planner it is difficult not to ask oneself whether constructive possibility hasn't in some degree eclipsed human understanding.

Does the architect always take into consideration the people who are going to live in the house which he has designed? To take this further, what does one sacrifice in the council housing estate for visual interest, lavishness of space and general cleanliness? The answer in my opinion is a sense of community.

It is a tragedy of contemporary society that the post-war estates lacked the time to develop and flower as communities. This misfortune has too often resulted in great numbers of people being thrown together in a place which lacks an identity. For one cannot build a community as one builds a house; it evolves where men and women enjoy things in common (and by that I do not infer beer and bingo — too often the initial and final parochial social amenities).

Material well-being is no substitute for happiness and in recognition of this, far too many people express the wish to return to their former slum dwelling where a strong human warmth existed. How does the architect hope to inspire pride in the hearts of those who live in the multi-storey flats which he has designed when the flats look no different than a factory, a school, or an office block?

Housing estates, by their very nature, are powerful catalysts for any form of emotional or social instability, and now that they have been built every possible measure should be taken to stabilise them and also to introduce into them an awareness of their existence as gregarious groups. They should no longer be allowed to develop into the social contradictions and concrete voids that so many of them are

DAVID MILLARDSHIP, L6.

A SEA-SERPENT set eyes on a tanker,
Bit a hole in her side and thus sank her,
In a minute or two,
He had swallowed the crew,
And picked his teeth clean with the anchor.

R. DUTTON, 2R.

CHRISTIANITY AND COMMUNISM.

MANY people have helped to change the course of history, but no two more than Jesus Christ and Karl Marx. Jesus Christ lived two thousand years ago and was crucified while still young. Karl Marx was born in 1818 and died in 1883, long years after he had been hounded out of his native land by government oppression. Both men were attacked for destroying religion and yet both founded new religions, Christianity and Communism. Jesus built his religion on love, peace, and brotherhood; Marx built his upon revolution and class war. Today these two religions face each other in the world and no other force can rival them.

I think the best point which one can choose in comparing Christianity and Communism is their interpretations of history. This is clear in Communism, which tells of the path history has followed, where it is going, and how it will get there. The society of the future, the Communist Party, the political aims, all depend upon an interpretation of history which gives the Communist hope and incentive.

At first sight it is not as apparent that Christianity is primarily a view of history. Christianity has frequently been distorted into a mystical or even mystery religion of individual salvation which denies or ignores the value of history in the sense of man's social life on earth.

If I may, I would like now to take an example and compare the views of the Christian and the Communist. Let us take the very beginning. For many centuries Christians thought of the Genesis story of Adam and Eve as a literal explanation of how evil and sin came into the world. Man had begun in idyllic perfection but had fallen before the sly temptation that he might become as God. For the Communists the beginning is represented by the primitive Communism which they believe characterized the society of the earliest men. In this primitive state there was no private property, no government separate from the people as a whole, and no exploitation of one man by another. Into this peaceful and harmonious scene there came a great change, and this change led to private property. This, like the serpent in the Garden of Eden, led to a host of ills and the fall of Man. Men began to exploit one another; government became class government which ruled in the interests of the whole. Wars became more widespread and vicious. In short, the whole of man's life was corrupted beyond recognition.

I would now like to criticise Communism in some of its aspects. There are many points of Communism which are susceptible to adverse criticism, but to deal with them all would take far too long, so I will pick out just a few.

The first is the Materialistic Interpretation of history. The Marxist interpretation can never be refuted by looking at the "facts" of history. The Marxist will always dig up other "facts" which he will insist are more basic. The Marxist interpretation is based on too shallow a view of human nature. It can never hope to understand man or the nature of history.

The second point of criticism is the loss of the value of the individual in Communism. This is one of the concepts of Christianity which is glossed over by Marx and repudiated by Communist societies. Communism lacks any basis for giving a value to man as an individual. It looks upon man as a creature of space and time. On the other hand, the Christian doctrine is that each individual has basic rights, and is not, shall we say, regarded as a mathematical problem. Just because you can add up numbers against an individual does not make him any less important, nor do you take from him his rights.

The third and final aspect is the Communist's failure to understand sin and forgiveness. Communism sees men as basically good, but perverted by the social system. Men are divided into classes with which their interests are involved and which they defend at all costs of truth or justice. The one point that the Communists have never been able to explain is that, if man is basically good and it is the society that creates evil, how does it happen that society fell from its original righteousness. The Communist replies that a great change which occurred made some men owners and others slaves. But it must be remembered that this change would never occurred if there had not already been a man with a desire to be the master.

Throughout all Christian views of man there runs the theme of forgiveness. Because of the Christian understanding of sin, the Christian knows that he needs to be forgiven by God.

In conclusion, I would like to say that during the Second World War a writer in a popular magazine commented that while the Nazis believed all the wrong things with fanatical zeal, the Western World believed all the right things but without any enthusiasm. It is this problem that haunts modern Christianity as it stands today, face to face with Communism. Can we, once more, find the springs of motivation that have caused Christians time and time again to overturn the world? If we can, then Communism will have met more than its match. The time has come for Christians to stop apologising for their gospel and start living. Communist fanaticism must be met by Christian enthusiasm.

R. NETHERCOTT, 5B.

DOGS.

YOU would not believe it, but there are 95 different pedigree dogs which are divided into groups, for instance, gundogs, terriers, toys, non-sporting and sporting. We do know for a fact that the dog was first trained or tamed in the Neolithic Age. Dogs are very faithful to their masters, and some dogs are a help to us when we are in trouble such as the St. Bernard, which rescues people on the mountain side, the Old English Sheepdog which rounds up the sheep, and of course, the Alsatian which the police use to hunt criminals. All of these dogs belong to the group of Non-Sporting. The Whippet and the Greyhound are two other dogs which belong to the Sporting group, which we all know race on the track.

D. OWEN, 1J.

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OLD NICK'S ALMANACK.

1963 has burnt itself into the past but not into oblivion for it will be remembered as that B year of Beat, Beatniks and Beatles. South Africa, Berlin and Cuba were allowed to erupt alone as the British world revolved at forty-five revolutions per minute. Our world became seven inches wide as the hair of four young men brought joy to our hearts and bankruptcy to the barbers.

Now, on the threshold of a new year, where do the Beatles and Co. stand? Where do we stand? Where does the musical profession lie? Writing knowledgeably I can confidently predict an end to the Big Beat but not the Beatles—they will modify their style to conform with the new sound—Jungle Bungle. Yes, this will be the age of Jungle Bungle—of beating drums, maracas, hi-fi spoons, and electric Jews' Harps. The instruments themselves will be different—maracas filled with the ashes of music lovers who died of shame during 1963 and as for the sound of drums, this will be provided by young beat boys hammering forlornly on their empty piggy banks. The greatest innovation however will be the electric Jews' harp—here five thousand volts will be passed through the player and not the instrument.

The tribes (not groups) will wear corduroy loin cloths and short kinky hair while naked beat song writers will provide a visual spectacle as they whirl about on stage in a vain attempt to keep warm.

What of teenagers during 1964? In fashion I foresee a return to femininity by the girls who will be as seductive as ever in silk jackboots and satin duffle coats, while Boys' hair will become longer and longer, eventually replacing clothes.

The Beatle cult will grow and organise itself along the lines of the Nazi Party. A Beatle Uniform will evolve, a distinctive feature of which will be a tightly knotted leather belt worn around the throat. Disciples will tighten the belts one notch for every thousand Beatle records sold and burials will take place in spacious Beatle Cemeteries in the suburbs of Liverpool.

What of the political future? Indeed have we a political future? I predict the sudden emergence of a new party which will rise to power in the forthcoming general election. The party will be known as the National Police Party—a fanatical left wing movement with far-reaching policies such as the preservation of the wild Rhinoceros, the abolition of self-defence teaching, and the establishment of teenage ghettos. The N.P.P. will fight its way to the political forefront by forcibly dissolving Parliament and passing the Second Combination Laws. It will be the first Parliamentary Party to contain one hundred Chief Whips and for this reason alone it will be remembered in years to come.

Finally, what has the future in store for us in the field of sport? I foresee that Britain will sweep the field in the Olympic Games in spite of the fact that the British team will have to row to Tokyo because of a shortage of funds. Britain's oarsmen, however, will fail miserably. I am afraid that there will be another dismal test series with Australia made even more dismal by the weather. Rain will prohibit the bowling of a single ball throughout the series and the ashes will be presented to the Football League for its services to cricket. With the conversion of Wembley Stadium into a giant car park there will be no F.A. Cup Final this year and the trophy will be presented to Mr. Marples for his services to Doctor Beeching. It is in the field of tiddlywinks that Britain will dominate completely this year and for his services to the game the Duke of Edinburgh will receive a life peerage. In the latter half of the year the Duke will retire from the sport and take up residence in Brighton where he can tiddle his wink with another peer.

Yes indeed it looks as if we are going to start 1964 in the same way as we left 1963. By the way, how **did** we leave 1963?

A. BLAIR, U6.

PREFECTS NOTES.

THE school year commenced with fourteen prefects in the ranks but shortly after Christmas the number was increased by the pleasing return of D. Millardship. We wish him all the best during his stay in the sixth form in the future.

There have been two important social events for the prefects this year. A school dance was held in October and was extremely well attended. Due to this the profits were the highest ever, over £30 in fact, and these were donated to the school funds. It had been the tradition in past years for the prefects to organise a social for the sixth form. The social was held shortly before Christmas and proved to be a great success, thanks to the efforts by the prefects in decorating the Dining Room and providing the music, and to the Ladies' Committee who provided a Bacchanalian feast for all.

In everyday affairs in the school the prefects have managed their duties with both spirit and vigour and after overcoming the usual teething troubles they have proved themselves well worthy of their positions.

As usual the prefects have taken a large part in the various sports activities. Nine prefects have represented the school in Rugby teams, a further four in the cross-country team, and two have taken part in chess matches against other schools.

As to the future, twelve prefects face Advanced Level G.C.E. examinations in March and June, while the remaining three, E. Pye, J. Croft, and D. Millardship, all of the Lower Sixth, have a further year of prefectship ahead of them.

K.H.-S.

ART SOCIETY.

THERE is little to report from the Art Society except that the number of boys who attend is still disappointingly low and may be due to Friday evening being an unpopular one. I therefore intend to change it to either a Tuesday or Thursday.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank McBride and Holt of the lower sixth for their excellent assistance in preparing and painting the scenery for the school play—the final result of their labour looked most professional and was praised by all.

It is the intention of the Art Department to hold an exhibition of paintings, mainly by present pupils of the school at the occasion of the opening of the School Library. The exhibition will be held for a fortnight and probably commence on the ninth of March.

D.J.

AEROMODELLING.

AEROMODELLING can be one of the most exciting hobbies a boy can undertake today. For quite a small sum of money, he could produce a neat little rubber-powered or glider model, which, if handled properly, can make flights of considerable duration.

Many boys, at one time or another have seen models powered by miniature two-stroke diesel or glowplug engines. These, of course, are much more expensive than a glider or rubber-powered model, but on the other hand are much more exciting. With these engines, two basic types of models can be made.

The first of these is free-flight. As its name suggests, there is no form of control once the model has left the modeller's hand, and the control surfaces have to be set before release. All free-flying models, whether they are low performance sports or high performance contest types, have to have a very large area in which to fly them. For this reason I have never taken up free-flying models.

The other type is the control line model. In this, the model is tethered by steel wire or thin cord to a handle which the operator holds. The model will thus fly around the operator, who can control it in two different ways. The first method uses two lines, and by varying the tension on these lines, the elevator is raised or lowered by a simple mechanism within the model, thus causing the model to climb or dive, or perform aerobatics at will. The other form of control is known as "monoline". In this, instead of having two lines as before, only one line is used, control being obtained by twisting the line instead of pulling it. This method of control has not yet been generally accepted; its only real use being in speed models, where the reduced air resistance caused by only one line is most attractive.

Interest and fascination in flying and piloting one's model aeroplane have not declined since control line flying was introduced in America in 1940. A control line model can be flown on any small patch of ground, providing it is reasonably level, and in this respect have a tremendous advantage over free flight models, which need large open spaces for their flight.

Since their introduction twenty-four years ago, control line models have developed into several different specialised branches. They are team-racers, aerobatic models, combat and scale. All these names are self-explanatory except for combat. In this, two aerobatic models towing streamers and flying in the same circle on equal length lines, attempt to cut each other's streamers. The person with the most cuts wins. Combat is also the most destructive branch of the hobby, head-on collisions and line-tangles being commonplace.

Before any of the above models can be flown, the budding aeromodeller must first of all build a trainer model. These models must be very strong, easy to build and fly. They are invariably made up of solid sheet balsa, with fuselages made up of single sheets of balsa. Such models are known as "profile" models. Engines on such models are usually between point seven five and one point five cubic centimetres. Below point seven five engines tend to be a little tricky to start, and above one point five give too much power to begin with. There are plenty of good kits available which are suitable for beginners, and engines between the quoted capacities are mostly moderately priced. I, personally, started aeromodelling with a combination of the Davies-Charlton "Bantam", a glowplug engine of point seven-six cubic centimetres, and the Keil-Kraft Champ, a "profile" control line trainer. I found the combination to be highly satisfactory, and had many enjoyable flights. The price of all this came to about three pounds ten shillings, about the lowest price possible to start in "powered" aeromodelling. If the newcomer to control line flying thinks he cannot build a model satisfactorily himself, there is an ever-expanding range of plastic "ready-to-fly" models, mostly imported from the U.S.A. by the Wen-Mac and Cox companies. They cost in excess of five pounds, but come complete and ready to fly except for fuel and starting battery, which have to be bought separately. Whichever branch of control line flying you may take up, you can be assured of plenty of excitement and pleasure, as I know from personal experience.

Earlier on, I mentioned two types of powered models, free-flight and control-line, but there is a third, radio-controlled. I chose to omit this branch of the hobby because of the tremendous cost of anything between twenty and a hundred and eighty pounds being necessary.

Aeromodelling is a grand hobby for anyone who wishes to take it up, whichever section he follows.

M. GROVER, 4A.

SCHOOL.

ALL we do is read and write
And we have homework every night.
We have gym and we have baths
But also we have rotten math's,
We have French and we have rugger
But home in bed I feel much snugger.

R. GRAYSON, IV.

23rd *BIRKENHEAD SCOUT TROOP* *ACTIVITIES 1963.*

LAST year's activities began with the Town Gang Show held at the Plaza in February. Our S.M. was the producer and from a cast of 120, no fewer than 8 belonged to this Troop.

A camp for the leaders of the Troop was held at Easter and all kit was taken to Overchurch camping ground by trek-cart.

In May, three of the Troop entered for, and won, a difficult map reading competition, set for the North Division. The competition involved:— choosing accurate map references of vague photographs taken in Wirral, and the visiting these points by bicycle.

18 members of the Troop were present at the County Scout Sunday parade held at Chester in June, and they marched along with several thousand other Scouts through Chester.

Four week-end camps were held before the summer holidays, one of them being mainly to introduce camping to the Tenderfoot Scouts. In the summer, a fortnight's camp was held at Dinas Mawddwy, Machynlleth. 21 of the Troop were present as well as the Troop Leader and three Scouters. The Troop which normally consists of five Patrols was divided into three Patrols for camp, each under a separate leader. Each Patrol formed a self-contained unit operating without the aid of adults. Backwoods cooking (i.e. cooking without utensils) was tried for one day (Yes! even the Scouters took part) and one boy was seen boiling an egg in an orange-skin whilst another attempt to boil water in a paper bag. (It can be done!) Other activities included a mock P.O.W. camp escape at night which involved crawling through woods, over walls, and wading through rivers, whilst several 'guards' operated search-lights; a treasure hunt; a visit to a wool factory; a session on raft-building, etc. A coach was organised for a Visiting day to the camp-site for parents and friends, whilst many parents travelled out by car. The five Patrol Leaders gained their First Class badges by each completing (with a partner) a 14-mile hike according to given instructions.





After the summer holidays, the previous leaders (11 in all) reached Senior Scout age and four new Patrol Leaders were closer (each of them close their own Patrol Second).

At the beginning of the Autumn term, 14 recruits joined the Troop and two of these (John Kelly and Colin Owens) were invested before Christmas.

A leaders training weekend was held in October, and 17 of us went to Wales in November and hiked over Moel Famau. Later in the month, on the evening that President Kennedy was shot dead, 8 of the senior boys along with Scouters and another Troop, left Colwyn Bay for Birkenhead on a 50-mile endurance walk which was instigated by President Kennedy. John Reid and John McLaughlin completed the walk and Philip Vaughan and Stuart Dawson very nearly completed it. One of the boys from the other Troop (65th Birkenhead), David Bird, completed the walk for the second time.

The past year was one full of activities well-supported and we hope that this year will be as successful.

R. BROOKS (A.S.M.)

ATKIN	STITT	TATE	W'MINSTER
			
HOUSE NOTES			

WESTMINSTER

SO far this year the winter weather has been kind and it has been possible to see the completion of the Senior Rugby competition, part of the Junior Rugby competition and the Senior Chess.

We suffered a rather unexpected set-back in the Senior Chess when as a result of carelessness we lost to Tate. Despite this setback the team regained their confidence and drew their match with Stitt. The final contest with Atkin was expected to be hard, but as a result of their great improvement, Westminster trounced the Atkin team 5-2. Thus we are now lying 2nd in the Chess Competition, and the team should be praised for its efforts. It is now up to the Juniors to improve our position.

In the Rugby Competitions the results have been excellent. There is little to be said about the game against Tate as our win of 25pts—0pts tells its own story. The match against Atkin was very different. Our forwards were told which tactics to employ in this particular game. This they did admirably and the result of 8pts—0pts for us reflects how carefully they followed their instructions. The most crucial match was to be against Stitt. This however proved to be an anti-climax because the team blended together to win convincingly by 19pts—6pts.

In the Junior Rugby Competition, only one match has as yet been played. This was against Atkin and the team won by 12pts—9pts. The team played well considering the absence of boys such as Garry and Beattie. Several players deserve mention, especially Wilson in the centre and Williams and Daniels who were outstanding in the pack.

The House is therefore in an extremely strong position to retain the Rugby Cup. All now depends on the Juniors winning one of their remaining games, which I am sure they will try their utmost to do.

The Annual Cross Country run is due shortly, and once again the other Houses will be striving to wrest the Shield from our grasp. The whole House therefore will once again have to gather its resources and train hard to prevent this happening.

A. P. J. DUNNE.

ATKIN

IN the senior rugby competition the team began with a narrow victory over Stitt by 6 points to 3. After this initial success the team played with tremendous guts and enthusiasm against Westminster and were unlucky not to force a draw. Therefore our 3-3 draw with Tate came as a disappointment, for we should have overwhelmed them. Next year we should possess an even stronger team and should achieve considerable success. In the junior competition we have so far played only one game in which we lost to Westminster by 12 points to 9. Despite this setback we should be successful against Stitt and Tate.

Our senior chess team looked formidable possessing three members of the school team. Its performance however came below expectations. It lost narrowly to both Stitt and Westminster, but managed to boost its reputation by thrashing Tate 7-0. Tunley and Parry (5A) are to be congratulated on winning all their games.

It is to be hoped that Atkins can produce a sustained effort in the forthcoming competitions in order that it may once more be in sight of winning the Coronation Cup.

TATE

THE Autumn term 1963 has involved the playing of the senior school rugby and chess competitions. In these matches Tate's results may be described as being fairly consistent—unfortunately they are consistently bad. Regrettably, this, to a large extent, demonstrates the attitude of the senior house towards inter-house competitions and it is noticeable that at a mention of possible team membership there is a sudden outbreak of modesty.

In all three rugby matches the Tate team started as rank outsiders and the scores produced by the opposition in the Westminster and Stitt matches confirmed the above fact. In the Atkins match, however, the result completely rebuked theoretical considerations since the Tate side managed to hold the Atkins team to a 3-3 draw. It has been said, by strong Atkins supporters, that this result was due to the benevolence felt by the Atkins players since the game took place so close to Christmas. However, we know it to be due to a good performance by the Tate team, although there were only 14 of them. The only house match played by the junior team was against Stitt. This was lost with a score of 0-37 and if the team is to win any future matches some serious training must be done.

In the senior chess competition Tate conceded victory twice, the team losing against Atkins and Stitt with high margins in the score. The performance of the members of the team against Westminster, however, was a great improvement since they managed to produce a victory, beating Westminster by $4\frac{1}{2}$ games to $2\frac{1}{2}$.

The future of the house, this school year, does not look so grim as its past, since the School Cross Country is quickly approaching as is Sports Day, in which, if the house members make maximum effort, Tate could achieve high positions.

STITT

I BELIEVE that 1964 heralds a new era, a much more exciting era for the school because everything points to a fairer distribution of talent in the four houses. By this I am not decrying the efforts of my colleagues, and Westminster's house master, Mr. Hughes, who works extremely hard to keep the boys of his house up to scratch in all the school competitions and who will have to continue to do so to prevent the others from overhauling the "Cock of the School" house.

I predict, like Old Moore of Almanak fame, that Stitt can take that title away from Westminster, if not this year then next. It will be interesting to see if, by the efforts of the lads in Stitt, my prediction can really come about. Obviously in the end it is only the boys who can achieve this aim and it is gratifying to see how well the juniors are doing in the fields of competition. I call on all for an even greater effort and to start off by winning the Junior and Senior cross-country races this term and perhaps even the cricketing shield in the summer one.

Last term the Senior Chess team did well to end up as joint winners of their competition and our congratulations and thanks are offered to Pye, the captain, and all the members of his team.

The Senior Rugby team were most unfortunate in having numerous people absent at the time of two of their matches. However, we had a full team out against Tate and recorded a good win.

In the match against Atkin I do not think our opponents would begrudge it or think it unfair if I was to say we were unlucky to lose by two penalty goals to a try in an intensely exciting match after which everyone unanimously agreed that a draw would have been a fair result.

In their last match against Westminster we were unfortunate to be without two of our stalwarts, Ratcliff, our captain and Kellett, our pack leader: both were on interview for University places. On the actual day of the match one of the team was unable to play owing to injury and two of the reserves were absent from school. Two volunteers were recruited and Stitt took the field with one man short and with five changes from the team which had such a convincing win over Tate. The team put up an excellent show but were easily beaten by nineteen points to six.

An encouraging match for Stitt to end the term was the Junior game with Tate when against a weakened team the house quickly ran up thirty-six points, largely owing to a heavier pack, a good combination of out-halves and strong running by Whitehead at Centre.

D.J.

RUGBY

FIRST XV.

ON the eleventh of December, in ideal weather, the annual game against the Old Boys' first fifteen was played at Ingleborough Road. It was a good game and was enjoyed by both sides. The score, however, by no means flatters the efforts of the school side and in particular those of the pack who did more than hold their much heavier opponents in every aspect of play apart from the tight scrums where the superior weight told to such great advantage.

Outstanding amongst the forwards were Howarth on the front row and Caplin and McNulty as locks. Howarth deserves special mention for his tackling and covering after pushing against huge props. But the boy to be awarded the handsome Old Boys' trophy for the outstanding player of the match was Alan Woods at scrum-half who played a most courageous game behind the lighter pack. Our congratulations to Alan.

Most of the old boys' attempts to score by orthodox passing movements were broken down by the schools' defence but with the help of the unerring boot of Alan Smith and the strong individual running of John Lowry at Stand-off and Geoffrey Clays from the Backrow, the Old Boys eventually won by thirty five points to three.

A pleasing feature of the Old Boys' Team and one which must do much to encourage our present players, was the presence of so many recent pupils who are now regular members of the Old Boys' first fifteen.

D.J.

SECOND XV.

FOR the first time in several years, I am pleased to record that the Second team has had an enjoyable and successful season. This is in spite of the fact that the First team has been taking our players as a result of injuries, and the success is because of the perpetual enthusiasm of not only the team but of the many faithful reserves.

In the first three games of the season against Wirral, Helsby, and Caldý we were unfortunate to lose, but only by a very narrow margin. Had we had a little more experience I am certain we could have been more successful. However the next four matches proved encouraging as we won three and drew one. The latter was against Park High and proved to be a hard and enjoyable game.

We have played thirteen games so far, have won six, lost six, and drawn one.

I. G. ARMSTRONG (Capt.) U6

CHESS.

THE School team has played four Wright Shield fixtures this term. Although only one of these resulted in a win, several games have been evenly contested and with more care could have been won and thus increased our total of successful matches. Too often have games been lost even by good players through lack of concentration at a vital stage, even after a winning position had been secured. There is no excuse for this kind of mistake by a player of experience and all team members must remember that the greatest possible care must be exercised in the middle and final stages of a game to maintain a position of superiority.

Once again must a plea be made to all chess-players to treat sets and boards with much more care. This especially applies to chess played in the dinner-hour. During this term no fewer than three sets have been depleted in pieces to such an extent as to be rendered useless. This clearly cannot continue or no sets will be available for play at all apart from matches. It is the duty of every player to ensure that **all** pieces are replaced in the **appropriate** box after use, to refrain from misusing boards and pieces himself and to restrain others from doing so.

The final stage has now been reached in the Senior House competition from which Stitt have emerged the undisputed winners.

V A R I A

ON the last day of the summer term G. A. Thomas, Esq., the Chairman of the Old Instonians' R.U.F.C., came to the School to present the Old Boys' Sports Prizes on behalf of the Old Instonians' Association. These were awarded to A. K. Jones of Atkin, E. T. Woodfine of Stitt, L. R. McKittrick of Tate and P. W. Kevan of Westminster.

Wreaths were laid on the two memorials in the entrance hall by the Old Instonians' Association on Remembrance Day.

The photographic competition held in connection with the school tour of Denmark in the summer holidays was won by W. E. Ward of form 5A. The second prize went to P. J. Woods of the first form.

Next summer a party is to visit Paris and will stay at the Foyer des Lycéennes near the Bois de Boulogne from July 24th to August 3rd. This means that boys in the group will finish the term early.

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J. F. BELL, Esq.; K. McCracken, Esq., P. J. ROBINSON, Esq.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Association is to be held on Wednesday, February 19th, at the Association Headquarters in Argyle Street, Birkenhead, which premises have recently been extended by the acquisition of those next door and the work of alteration and decoration is now in full swing. 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 Committee were pleased to learn that yet another distinguished Old Instonian has been invited to present the awards at the School's annual Prize Giving. This year the Headmaster has extended the invitation to Dr. J. F. Galloway, the Medical Officer of Health for the County Borough of Wolverhampton, who will be visiting the School on Wednesday, March 11th.

As 1964 marks the 75th anniversary of the opening of Birkenhead Institute, the Committee will be organising another Reunion Dinner to be held in October. Full details will be circulated at a later date.

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, for which an Association membership card must be produced), scarves, tie pins, cuff links, tankards and car badges.

WAR MEMORIAL PRIZE

After the last war an appeal was launched for funds so that a memorial tablet in memory of the Old Boys of the School who had died could be erected in the entrance hall. Subscriptions were received from parents, Old Boys, and friends of the School, and the tablet was unveiled after a memorial service on December 18th, 1949.

The balance of the fund was invested and the interest is used to provide annually an Old Boys' War Memorial Prize, which is presented at the Prize Distribution. The Prize is awarded by the Trustees, six Old Boys of the School, to the boy who has most merited the award by some note-worthy performance or achievement in athletics, or any of the School's sporting or recreational activities, during the preceding twelve months.

THE WINNERS OF THE AWARD

1949 ... A. A. SMITH.	1956 ... H. S. JONES
1950 ... A. A. SMITH	1957 ... T. H. HARRIS
1951 ... J. R. MORRIS	1958 ... P. J. SAMPSON
1952 ... G. M. DODD	1959 ... D. DOCHERTY
1953 ... T. S. HODGSON	1960 ... C. M. LEE
1954 ... A. S. HODGSON	1961 ... A. McINTOSH
1955 ... I. MARRS	1962 ... A. STEEDMAN

The Trustees have awarded the Prize for 1963 to L. R. McKITRICK.

OLD INSTONIANS R.U.F.C.

Chairman: Mr. G. A. THOMAS,

181 Huddersfield Road, Newhey, Rochdale. (Milnrow 55458).

Secretary: Mr. J. G. WILLIAMS,
30 Teehey Close, Higher Bebington.

Treasurer: P. A. RYAN,
96 Highfield South, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead. (Rock Ferry 6681).

Ground: The Fender, Woodchurch Road, Birkenhead.

ON the playing side, under the energetic captaincy of Geoff. Williams, the 1st XV is getting to look younger each week (especially so to some of us more ancient committee men who regard each Janaury 1st with somewhat mixed feelings through the customary mist) and has broken even in the first 4 months' games. It looks, indeed, like settling down to a very useful side. The 2nd and 3rd XV's, under the respective captaincies of the effervescent Bertie Bushell and the enigmatic John Mandy, are also well established and the customary complaints from the lower orders, so to speak, are not so shattering as usual—so much so it is understood that the chairman of the selection committee is making enquiries as to a deaf aid.

As to the financial side, "that stuff" has been rolling in, and we are now wholly clear of debt on the playing field itself. Improvements for the comfort of the troops in the clubhouse are being rapidly made and shortly the place will really be worth living in with darts and table tennis galore for that misguided mass of the people who are so inclined (a personal view of course, I rush to say!).

Therefore I think we can say that we are now well established and the home is there for any rugby-minded boy on leaving the School. The Club extends its best wishes to the School for a Happy and Prosperous New Year and its congratulations to that redoubtable scrum half, Alan Woods, for being the first winner of the Annual Trophy presented by the Club to the outstanding school player on the day of the annual match. Long may he cherish it.

P.A.R.

THE YOUNG MAN'S GUIDE TO RUGBY FOOTBALL.

THE first essential in approaching any game is to recognise the foundation principle on which the game is built, and five minutes serious study and observation will make this principle abundantly clear—in the case of Rugby football, the prevention of progress.

This prevention of progress is achieved in a number of ways which we will describe in more detail. As in other games, there are opponents and if they are unsporting enough to endeavour to get the game going by running with the ball, they must be grasped by the legs below the knee until they fall to the ground—this is the most popular way of stopping the game, and if necessary, not only must the opponent be pulled to the ground, but other members of one's team should be encouraged to fall on top of him, thus taking more time to get the game in progress again.

When first seen, the "scrum" is a little confusing to the beginner, but a moment or two of intelligent observation will quickly recognise it as a variation of "ring-a-ring of roses—all fall down" which was learnt in our nursery days.

Whilst on the subject of the "scrum"—a quick word of warning to the beginner who might have the misfortune to find himself in the vicinity of the scrum when "the ball comes out". Should this happen and the unfortunate individual find the ball in his possession he must on no account attempt to do anything with it, but must throw it immediately to a colleague, and in so doing he must fall flat on his face—it is not enough just to throw the ball.

Another method of stopping the game is to kick it high into the crowd, this is met with tumultuous applause, and of course is an excellent way of illustrating the principle of the game, which is to waste time.

In order to become a successful player it is necessary to learn certain phrases which are used during play. These vary in different parts of the country but on Merseyside there are one or two such as "gerroffmefut" and "wocherthinkyerduin" or "Take yereyes out an sukum, ref". In senior football played after leaving school there are certain adjectives which are added to the above.

In the opening paragraph of this article it was stressed that the object of the game must be grasped and it is hoped that enough has been written to establish the principle of "stoppages at all cost", and the intelligent reader who has reached this point will have realised that the real object of the game is to provide initial training for shop stewards in factories where cars are made—where excuses for stopping production must continually be conjured up—what better place of training than the Rugby field? It is said that the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton. Could it not equally be said that wild cat strikes in car factories originated on the playing fields of Rugby?

One final word of advice to the aspiring Rugby player—a fact which has been discovered by those who play marbles, croquet, golf, cricket, billiards and soccer—if you want to play a ball game with any degree of accuracy—THE BALL MUST BE ROUND.

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