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School Notes and News

The addition to the Science Block has steadily progressed during the course of the term and should be completed by the end of the summer. We are glad to announce that the Earl of Derby has kindly consented to open the new building on Tuesday, July 23rd, when he will also distribute the prizes. It is particularly appropriate that Lord Derby should open the extension to the Science Block, for his grandfather opened the original building in 1927.

The illustration opposite represents the design for the proposed new clubhouse for the Old Hulmeians, which it is hoped to erect on the Old

Boys' Rugby Ground in Brantingham Road. Further details will be found in the Old Hulmeians' section of the magazine; but we mention it also here, as it cannot be too strongly emphasised that present members of the school are as much concerned in the project as their predecessors, for they will be the principal beneficiaries when the scheme comes into fruition.

The Michaelmas term ended on Monday, December 17th, with the usual Carol Service. On the following day the Choir again sang at the mid-day Service at St. Ann's Church in the city. The Prefects' Annual Dance was held the same evening.

During the Christmas Holidays Dr. Jecny took a party of boys to Mayerhofen in the Austrian Tyrol for the Winter Sports. An account of their trip will be found elsewhere in this magazine.

Founders' Day was observed this year on Thursday, January 24th. The Service was held, as usual, in Manchester Cathedral. The address was delivered by the Rev. Dr. H. Roberts, M.A., Ph.D., Principal of Richmond College, President-designate of the Methodist Conference and President of the World Council of Methodist Churches. So far as one can recall this is the first time the school has been addressed on such an occasion by an Old Hulmeian. All who were present must have felt that the distinctions Dr. Roberts has achieved were well merited and an honour not only to himself, but also to the school which he attended.

We congratulate J. E. O. Screen on being awarded an Open Exhibition in History at Peterhouse, Cambridge, and J. C. Priestley on the award of a Squire Scholarship at Trinity College, Oxford.

M. Lord and G. H. Lynn have been appointed school prefects this term.

Current Affairs lectures by speakers from outside the school staff have included Dr. A. Wilson, M.A., D.Phil., who spoke on *The Impact of the West on China*, Mr. D. L. Niddrie, M.Sc., on *South African Problems*, Mr. E. A. G. Holloway on *The Dollar Dilemma*, Mr. E. H. Wall, T.D., M.A., on *The Commonwealth and the Middle East* and the Dean of Manchester, the Very Rev. H. A. Jones, B.Sc., on *Science and Religion*.

During the Easter Holidays, Mr. Collings and Dr. West will be taking a party of thirty-nine boys on an educational visit to Paris.

Next term, the Annual Athletic Sports will take place on the afternoon of May 22nd. We shall be very pleased to welcome parents and friends at the school for the occasion.

The Midsummer term will begin on Tuesday, April 30th, at 9-15 a.m.

The Whitsuntide Holidays will extend from Friday, June 7th at 12-30 p.m. to Tuesday, June 18th, at 9-15 a.m.

Midsummer term will end on Friday, July 26th, at 4 o'clock.

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of *The Denstonian*, *The Wallaseyan* and the magazine of the King's School, Macclesfield.

The Sorcerer

The Sorcerer is a little-known product of the Gilbert and Sullivan partnership. The reason is not hard to find. The story is unpromising. To begin with, it is more domestic, more truly rural, than

are most of the other operas, with their more fashionable settings. The representations of wealth and privilege are not distinguished by licensed eccentricities, as in the case of *Iolanthe* or *The Gondoliers*. There are no grandly-built scenes to give scope to the formal and solemn talents of Gilbert and Sullivan. Without the aristocratic 'aura', and the manners of the fashionable world to sustain them, their work loses in power.

This is only to say, of course, that they know the range of their powers, and are at their best when exploiting opportunities for sentiment, situation, pageantry and satire. *The Sorcerer* does not admit very rich exploitation of these devices, and the audience are left to pay more attention than usual to the piece simply as a story.

This is as preposterous as ever, but it has two additional drawbacks: sluggish development of plot, and little scope for dramatic surprise in the turn of events, such as Gilbert's inventive genius produced in other operas. It is interesting to notice that however topsy-turvy the world of Gilbert and Sullivan appears to be, certain factors remain constant: the chorus of the 'lower orders' always echo and imitate their betters; there is never any infringement of the barriers of class; age, infirmity and ugliness are subjects for ridicule.

These nagging reservations can often be displaced, temporarily at least, by the enthusiasm of a good production.

The tone of this production was largely established by the chorus, who are perhaps more involved in the action than in most of Gilbert and Sullivan. Their lively presence, and their look of healthy contentment in spite of all that went on around them, was most reassuring. They made a colourful picture; buxom wenches and starry-eyed maidens mingled with hearty youths, and they sang tunelessly with obvious enjoyment.

Their sense of confusion as they felt the effects of the love-potion was not very well conveyed. They should have looked more puzzled as they gradually felt sleep overcoming them. Most simply put hand to head and dropped. At the beginning of scene two their slumbering forms made a good stage picture, and the brisk certainty of their pairing after they awoke was amusing. Their rustic song and dance—*All this I will do if you will marry me*—was a very gay affair, and the orchestra gave good support here. The chorus, too, concluded the opera with agreeable and wholesome sentiments:

Now to the banquet we press—
Now for the eggs and the ham—
Now for the mustard and cress—
Now for the strawberry jam!

D. Wallace, as Alexis, had a difficult part. His long speeches of pious rhetoric would have sounded better if they had been delivered with a firmer,

even exaggerated, conviction. His general posture was slack and drooping. Feet together, not wide apart, stronger gestures and loosely clenched hands would have checked the general impression of limpness. His performance was well prepared, but it lacked ease. More delicacy in make-up was needed, too: with a rather heavy facial make-up, the lips and eyebrows were not well defined.

Aline was played daintily and attractively by A. H. Williamson. He was well made-up and dressed. He was soon in very good voice, and sang throughout with clarity and sweetness. Moreover, he played the devoted lover with great sincerity, and his dramatic reactions to events were good to see. The best moment in the betrothal scene was his line, feelingly uttered: "I deliver it, I deliver it, as my act and deed."

Alexis' song after the wedding, *Love feeds on many kinds of food*, was well and clearly delivered, but was marred by the familiar whispers which the lovers exchanged between verses. This gave a distracting and casual air to what should have remained a formal and serious situation.

The parents of the lovers were traditional Gilbertian figures. Sir Marmaduke oozed elegance and aristocratic breeding. B. W. Wilson was very much at home in this part. He looked well in his courtly attire, and stood and moved with ease. His spoken part was effectively delivered.

The part of Lady Sangazure, a matronly aristocrat of ancient lineage, was played by W. D. Yale. An impressive feature of his performance was his power to keep in character, and to convey both the cold, aristocratic bearing and the sternly repressed emotions of the part.

Both put over their songs more by force of personality and acting skill than by purely vocal powers. Sir Marmaduke's singing was rather flat and lacking in variety. But both were models of clarity and added dramatic life to the opera.

J. S. Gallagher made a pleasing attempt at bringing to life the unctuous Vicar, Dr. Daly. So far, his technique is limited, and his gestures were restricted to a rather wearying incessant hand-rubbing. There was too much monotony in the sing-song cadences of his voice. There was too much red in his make-up. A promising performance in a big part.

Nursing a hopeless passion for the Vicar was Constance, played with a pale, tragic intensity by A. D. Cooper. He had a clear and steady voice. Mrs. Partlet, the homely mother of Constance, differed sharply from her rather moon-eyed daughter. Her severe yet motherly character was interpreted with bustling cheerfulness by D. J. Sudlow.

It was the good fortune of D. D. A. Lamb that he had in Mr. John Wellington Wells a part so well suited to his rhetorical style of acting. He had a gleaming and fanatical eye, and his songs were not merely dashed off with agile voice, but acted by ample gesture and by an excellent sense of timing. His opening song, *My name is John Wellington Wells*, introduced a gay episode, and the orchestra gave him a light, lilting backing. The effect of this song was marred, however, by an irritating tendency to bend forward in time with the beat of the music, and by a loose, aimlessly swinging left arm. These movements appeared to come from an amateurish instinct to beat time for himself.

In scene two one of the best moments was the duet between Mr. Wells and Lady Sangazure. Yale's tragic dignity and pathetic pleading was hilariously contrasted with Lamb's wild attempts to escape (again the swinging arm distracted).

Apart from the main performances, memory retains some agreeable moments, such as the brief appearances of H. F. Lyon as a diminutive Hercules, and especially his bright announcement "E's in the tent, sir, refreshin'". D. J. Dixon, as the Notary, did not have as much to do, but he handled the betrothal efficiently and bustled about in a highly professional manner. One of the most musical moments was the tender and affecting Quintet in scene two.

Technically, the production was very effectively staged. The 'Big House' of the setting was solid and well proportioned, and it loomed protectingly over the characters and events. The stage was brightly lit. The betrothal contract was simply and decorously managed. The chorus were quite happily disposed about the stage.

The orchestra coped manfully, and was quite adequate in the lyrical and atmospheric passages. At times the rhythms were lost and the playing became stodgy. The strings often dragged. Lift and lightness were encouraged by the discreet but firm accompaniment of Mr. Rix. Mr. Williams' energetic baton was constantly cajoling more pace and coherence from the ensemble playing, and he imparted comfort and confidence to his team of players and singers alike.

The production was a brave venture, with some splendid moments. It is a notable achievement for Mr. Williams to have drawn so successfully from the junior forms for some of the most important rôles. He gave to most of the audience an entirely new work, and once again trained a team of cast, instrumentalists and helpers in a fruitful corporate activity.

The Michaelmas Term Form Plays

Three form plays were presented during Michaelmas Term.

The first, *Scuttleboom's Treasure*, was performed by 3B. This was an apt choice for a junior form. It gave parts to a large number of boys, and the story combined two promising themes—schoolboys on a 'cultural expedition' and pirates looking for buried treasure.

On the whole the play was well presented. The desert island was well suggested by realistic boulders and backcloth. An ugly and dangerous crew of pirates included A. Gillanders (Sharky Joe), who spoke too quickly, J. M. Robinson as the bearded Rosebud, and B. A. Simpson as Jamaica Jim; G. Newey as Slimy Pete was slight but determined; D. W. Butterworth was a solid and robust Look-out Man; S. G. Wood was sinister but not quite assertive enough as Black Bill, leader of the short-lived mutiny.

S. M. Royle gave dignity and authority to the part of Captain Scuttleboom. He dominated the stage by his impressive appearance, and gained sympathy by his zeal for the profession of piracy. At times he strained his voice in over-excitement, and would have done well to vary the pace and tone of his long speeches. He succeeded in creating the part of a pirate who is also a dreamer and a poet.

The formidable Mr. Fish, Headmaster of Milchester College, was an amusingly written part, but it did not at all suit R. Welsby. He did not realise that he was speaking to an audience, and we saw far too much of the back of his head. His face was largely hidden by a big hat. Much of the dry schoolmasterly humour ('Boys, you may laugh'), was unfortunately lost.

The Schoolboys, M. R. M. Turner, R. L. Cooper, G. L. Moir, A. B. Holt, were ably led by I. Pitt. He was part in appearance and had the right piping voice. The conversation between Pitt and Captain Scuttleboom was well done, and the play ended with Scuttleboom, happy once more, thrilling his new followers with his romantic dreams of piracy.

Dr. Waller is to be thanked for a successful production.

The second play was *Shivering Shocks*, presented by 5S and produced by J. P. Bishop.

The play was written by Clemence Dane according to the specifications of a boys' dramatic society, and it has many moments of excitement. Though written before 1930, it has a contemporary interest in its prophetic story of a country 'East of Germany' which employs spies to seize the formula for a secret explosive.

V. Lucas gave a good performance as the disabled Captain Dallas. He was well made up, and spoke expressively and with military firmness. D. Sharples, as his manservant Kysh, was perhaps too quietly spoken and deferential for a sprightly Cockney ex-private.

D. G. Wood was the hunted scientist, Hughes, and he made a dramatic, breathless entry. Unfortunately he did not maintain this impression of urgency. He stood awkwardly and spoke his lines too quickly, without suitable expression.

The two crooks, B. Wienholt and R. Millner, looked sinister enough, and Millner was commendably quick on the draw, but wide-brimmed hats hid their faces. Their speech was often muffled, and the action in which they were involved lost much of its effect through poor grouping. Millner should not have stood directly in front of Captain Dallas, for example, when tying his hands.

Scotland Yard was represented by R. N. Tattersall, well disguised as a taxi-driver. He looked convincing, but spoke too quickly. His movements should have been more carefully rehearsed, especially his pretence of being drunk. There was not enough contrast between the pretence and the reality. This was a difficult part.

The lighting was too dim. At all costs, the faces of the actors must be clearly seen.

The setting was simple but adequate, and much care had clearly been taken in rehearsal and the learning of lines. But the actors, with the exception of the main character, must remember three things: first, to speak clearly and naturally; second, to practise standing, sitting, moving, in a manner suitable to their rôles; third, to play to the audience, not to each other.

As usual, Mr. Bonnick gave us something very special in his production of *The Shirt*, with 5Y. This was the traditional tale of the sad king who cannot be made happy until he wears the shirt of a happy man.

The united talents of the whole form were skilfully exploited to give the play something of the variety of a miniature pantomime.

The production was distinguished by colourful settings and costumes, by clarity of speech, and by brisk, lively action.

The large cast were very skilfully grouped, especially in scene one. Here the curtain went up to reveal a sumptuous array of variously costumed courtiers. A strong fanfare seemed to promise a gay continuation, but the despairing slump of the King revealed the prevailing mood. C. I. Hammond had little to do except crouch gloomily on his throne, and he did this quite well, together with jagged, neurotic exclamations of misery from time to time.

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His courtiers did their best to please. The Jester (G. Henshall), well attired in cap and bells, had expended all his store of jokes, and spoke in slow and doleful tones. D. W. Parker, as the Queen, was not very regal in movement, but spoke in a commanding manner. Another authoritative figure was M. J. Friend as the Chancellor. The Physician (in Harley Street attire) confessed himself baffled. F. A. Richards in this part needed more variety of pace and gesture. He had an entertaining rival in C. D. Beswick as Second Physician. J. G. Temple was well suited to the rant and bluster of Lord Walrus.

It was G. N. Bromiley, as a fast-talking American impressario, who arranged the entertainment which was to tempt the King to laughter. He acted as Master of Ceremonies to the show, and gave a raw, uninhibited performance. M. A. Kerr and F. A. Palmer as the Guards, complete with formidable axes, emphasised the grimness of the penalty for those who were gonged after failing to please.

There followed a quick series of acts which delighted the audience if not the King. Side-Splitting Sidney (R. E. Smith) tried some hearty comedy; the Harmonica Hoodlums (C. D. Beswick, I. Blair, G. Pomfret) harmonised hopefully; Huffy and Duffy (B. Hayes and A. G. Jones) gave a smart and snappy cross-talk act as a pair of Chocolate-coloured Coons. Sapper Smith and his Syncopated Six, dressed in up-to-date 'semi-pro' fashion, aroused great enthusiasm by their spirited offerings. Finally D. E. C. Robinson as a quack physician put over an amusing line in music-hall psycho-analysis. All these reduce the King to groans and ultimately to great, miserable sobs.

The next task is to find a Happy Man. A. S. Addison headed the Selection Committee that first drew up forty-two definitions of 'happiness.' Claimants for the title were interviewed in quick succession. This produced a most entertaining sequence of personal confessions. The staging of this episode was very enterprising, each claimant appearing momentarily as if projected on a cinema screen.

T. G. Nevill's appearance as the Happy Beggar was no anti-climax after this prolonged search. Here was the 'noble savage' of Rousseau, happy, easy and dignified, chained by no 'civilised' allegiances.

The play was an excellent entertainment. It had colour, variety, high-spirits, and was a worthy precursor of the pantomime season.

The House Play Competition

During this term a House Play competition has been held. This aroused much interest, and a spirit of keen competition developed as the term proceeded. Each House was responsible for the choice, production and staging of a one-act play. Production was in the hands of senior boys, who have shown much enterprise. A very high standard was reached by some of these productions, and it is clear that the experiment has given new life to the tradition of Tuesday plays.

The choice of Dalton House was *The Poetasters of Ispahan*.

A light, exotic atmosphere was created first by the rhyming verse, which was smoothly and naturally delivered, and by the gaiety of the colourful costumes. The setting, however, was not so successful: the colour red was too dominant.

The story centres upon a public letter-writer, youthful and penniless, played with a natural ease of manner by I. A. B. Low. His quick wits enable him to outwit four rivals for the hand of a wealthy heiress (J. S. Litherland). P. J. Killan gave a rousing and supercilious performance as the dandified perfume seller. J. S. Wright was a solid, simple, good-hearted barber, and P. S. Martin an irascible silk merchant. The quartet was made up by P. S. Harrison as a pastry-cook.

The letter-writer's exploitation of these four produced some cleverly amusing situations and clashes of character. These were worked out with careful attention to movements and groupings.

The lighting was rather experimental in conveying the effect of time, and became too dim in the last part of the play.

The play was produced by K. S. Williams.

The Waters of Lethe, a play which deals rather glibly with life-after-death, was presented by Byrom. The choice was an enterprising one, though the point of the play did not emerge distinctly for a long time, and the characters existed mainly as individual units, with little inter-relation. Some of the rather nondescript minor characters contributed little to the play.

There were some extremely good performances. The principal character was a vivacious but warm-hearted barmaid, vividly portrayed by D. R. Taylor. Other parts were played seriously and with deep feeling. M. C. Johnson spoke well, but his gestures were limited; D. J. C. Williams gave a genteel, poised performance as his female companion. D. H. Lurie was effectively disguised and spoke and moved very well in the part of an agitated Old Lady.

D. Arnold had the hard task of portraying the collapse of a character from refined benignity to abject despair, and he did it very well. B. W.

Derbyshire, who produced the play, spoke clearly and sincerely as the penitent youth who refuses to drink the waters of forgetfulness.

The setting was appropriate and well lit, although a dimming process at the end did not succeed. The bottom stage right exit was often badly congested, and stage movements were sometimes awkward.

As a team effort, this production showed care and sincerity.

Fraser House did not justify their ambitious choice of an abridged version of Shaw's *The Apple Cart*. A successful performance of this play would have needed zest, speed, immaculate speech. This production had none of these qualities.

The shortened version was given in two scenes. In the first, the Cabinet Ministers sat uncomfortably round a table which was tucked into one corner of the stage. Most of them spoke in a mumbling incoherent monotone. There was little attempt to convey the various points of view by conscious pause, pace or gesture. There were some deadly unintentional pauses.

T. W. Batley as the Prime Minister deserves praise. He alone gave a sense of meaning and urgency to his lines. D. L. Watkin, as Boanerges, put in some effective, laconic contributions. C. C. Brown, playing the part of King Magnus, looked suave enough for the part, but blithely rattled off his speeches, and was quite inaudible. C. H. F. Turner as the American Ambassador kept up a convincing accent, but he was most inappropriately dressed.

Two gaudily-dressed page boys strayed into the play from the world of pantomime.

The lighting was good.

Heywood's play, *The Bishop's Candlesticks*, was produced by T. W. Woodward.

In intention, the play is a parable or a morality on the theories of love and forgiveness. A serious drawback to this production was the lack of virility and strength of feeling. The story was put over, in fact, rather casually.

A. J. Wintringham was the Bishop's sister. His movements were aimless, his gestures jerky, and he spoke too quickly, with a tendency—quite simple to check—of losing his final syllables. C. H. Templar, as the servant Marie, looked innocent enough but needed more life. J. J. Reich did not make a very venerable or lovable character of the Bishop. His walk and bearing were dignified, but his appearance was marred by too much tousled, unruly hair. His voice was rather hard and detached, and did not communicate the Bishop's spiritual wisdom.

The convict was played by D. W. Grindey, who has a good vocal range to convey desperation, defiance, cynicism, penitence. He must learn to

act with his whole body: while his voice became jagged with hatred and suspicion, his body remained slack. The scene where he was alone in the room before taking the candlesticks was well played.

The setting was simple and appropriate, though the small altar for private devotions should not have been placed beneath the distractions of a window.

The pace was good, but there should have been more emphasis on significant moments. A pause and a steady gaze would have made the final handing over of the candlesticks much more effective.

The Whitworth 'Strolling Players' presented *The Robbery at Gadshill*, containing Falstaff's scenes from *Henry IV*. The production was in keeping with the Elizabethan tradition of performances on improvised stages, and it had a suitable healthy vulgarity.

By their high-spirited entry from the back of the hall, the company had won over their audience before they even reached the stage. They proceeded to give a performance of professional ease, enriched by some cunning touches of stage business.

The costumes stood out well against the deliberate drabness of the setting.

F. Cosgrove, who produced the play and also played Falstaff drove the production along at a brisk pace. He exuded self-indulgence and comfortable mischievousness. He was extremely well costumed, though his make-up did not emphasise his eyes sufficiently.

In the tavern scene before the robbery he moved to-and-fro at the front of the stage rather too much; but he often held the stage by his outrageous exaggerations, such as the scene in the inn where he re-enacts his part in the robbery.

D. D. A. Lamb pointed his lines intelligently, but was a little inaudible at times. His cool, mocking manner was in keeping with the double rôle which Prince Hal knew himself to be playing.

The robbery 'with violence' was realistically done—a brief impression of flying arms and legs remains vividly in the mind. Amusing, too, was the episode in which the Prince and Poins (I. W. Rodger) amuse themselves at the expense of the tapster Francis (M. S. Unsworth). Moreover, the scene changing was fitted entertainingly into the pattern of the production.

The other confederates were suitably disposed about the stage, and appeared to be quite at ease without affecting the main action.

The play seemed to fall off after the robbery episode was over. A number of new characters like Bardolph (I. C. Smith), Mrs. Quickly (R. S. Bellas) and the Sheriff (J. P. Bishop) were rather

abruptly introduced. The 'play extempore' was too long drawn-out for inclusion in this extract. In consequence the play ended lamely, but the players recaptured their audience in the triumphal carousings of their departure.

The play came vividly and audibly alive, and the good humour that filled the stage came amply across the footlights.

The Gaskell play was *The Campbells of Kilmohr*.

A striking success of this production was its setting. The large stage had been skilfully transformed into a small cottage by the device of a sloping roof, a drab wall which included a window and a rough wooden door, and, best of all, a peat fire that really smoked.

J. M. A. Thompson played the part of the aged Mary Stewart with an impassive, stern dignity. He realised how effective it can be to stand perfectly still. By his side, A. H. Williamson as Morag played a rather subsidiary part. R. B. Rudkin was suitable in appearance for the part of Dugald, but his voice lacked the heroic edge, and his hand movements were weak.

R. V. Chadwick's performance as Campbell was easy and assured. His technique was very good, and he introduced his pauses, gestures, changes of tone, aptly and discreetly. His sense of timing is good. His outbursts were perhaps a little too unrestrained, and his diction became indistinct at these times.

The questioning episode made a good stage picture, with soldiers and officers completing the group. A good deal of dramatic tension was created in the clash of wills during this scene.

One or two faults spoiled the climax of the play. The stage positions were very poor when Morag finally blurted out to Campbell the information he was after. This moment should have been put over with much more significance. The sound of the muskets was represented by a dull off-stage thud.

The local atmosphere was quite well enough suggested. The accents were a reasonable approximation and the costumes and uniforms added extra interest.

The play offered scope for passionate acting and the creation of tense drama. These opportunities were well taken.

The play was produced by T. V. Jones.

The contest was adjudicated by three members of the Staff, and the final order of merit was as follows:—

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Whitworth. | 4. Dalton |
| 2. Gaskell. | 5. Heywood. |
| 3. Byrom. | 6. Fraser. |

A trophy designed and constructed by Mr. Barnett was presented to the winning House.

The Donner Union

THE DEBATING AND LITERARY SOCIETY

Since we last went to print the Donner Union has lived up to its great traditions and has held many and varied debates, play-readings and discussions.

On November 26th we were very pleased to welcome the girls of Whalley Range High School to an extremely entertaining debate, when we decided, by 18 votes to 15 with 7 abstentions, that *Woman's Place is in the Home*. Messrs. D. D. A. Lamb and J. M. Broadbridge and the Misses F. Yates and G. Edwards were the principal speakers.

The last meeting of the Michaelmas term saw F. Cosgrove giving the Society a series of readings from Dickens, which was greatly enjoyed by a small but select audience.

After having battled manfully to maintain order for three terms, B. W. Wilson decided not to stand for re-election as Deputy-Chairman after Christmas. We do not know whether he retired hurt, or decided the task had got beyond him, nevertheless the Society is extremely grateful for his services. J. Davis was elected *nem. con.* to fill the post. D. K. Swindells was elected to the committee in place of R. A. Lloyd who resigned.

The first meeting of the Lent term saw G. S. Phillips and R. E. Smith carry the motion *This House would like to Emigrate* by 11 votes to 5. B. W. Derbyshire and J. M. Temperley strove hard in opposition. We fear this may have been responsible for a slight fall in attendance at the following meetings.

At seven o'clock on Wednesday, January 23rd, a number of girls clad in the maroon, gold and navy blue uniforms of Withington Girls' School were shepherded into the Library by two of their mistresses, and so began a very enjoyable evening. Amongst other things the play *The Importance of Being Earnest* was read.

Having given Mr. H. Macmillan a few weeks to settle down as Prime Minister, a proportion of the Society endeavoured to persuade him to give the country a chance to set its house in order by demanding a General Election. M. J. Booth, who proposed the motion, reminded us of the record of the Conservatives from 1952 onwards, while T. W. Woodward, seconding, showed us he had an equally good knowledge of cricket and politics and could equate the two. E. R. Birch and I. C. Smith, however, came to Mr. Macmillan's rescue and were able to assure him that he had the support of at least 51 per cent. of the Society.

The next meeting of the Society took the form of a mystery (or impromptu) Debate, with several members disappearing in the middle. The few boys

who were not spirited away debated with some heat three motions: *This House supports Home Rule for Wales and Scotland* (For 6, against 5), *This House deplores Main² Road* (For 6, against 3), *This House refuses to believe that Home is Best* (Defeated *nem. con.*).

On Wednesday, February 13th, a select band of our members, together with one from Chetham's Hospital, made its way to the inner sanctuaries of the Y.M.C.A. Rostrum Society in order to throw out the motion *Those were the Days*. B. W. Derbyshire proposed the motion and T. W. Woodward seconded the opposition, as our two main speakers. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Rostrum Society, our very kind hosts.

On Monday, February 18th, Mr. Dudman very kindly led a discussion on *Science and Society*. The meeting was particularly enjoyable as we were hosts to the Science Society, and more especially to Mr. Faulkner, who gave us much to think about, and offered some solutions to the very grave problems which Mr. Dudman reminded us exist today.

The final meeting, which can be reported before going to press, was held at Whalley Range High School. A mass invasion took place on February 28th to debate the motion *The End justifies the Means*. Miss B. Richards and A. F. Bennett proposed the motion, but could only secure 11 votes, whereas M. C. Johnson and Miss M. Flatt gained 24 votes against the motion. J. M. Broadbridge, gained 12 abstentions.

The Union (not, as yet, affiliated to the T.U.C.) looks forward to further meetings with Whalley Range High School, Withington Girls' School, a discussion led by the Deputy-Chairman, more debates, and a new secretary. Meanwhile, why not take our advice and emigrate, and then you can form Donner Unions throughout the Commonwealth?

The Science Society

This year's meetings began on 29th November, 1956, with a lecture by Mr. Grigsby on *Animal Behaviour*, which set a high standard for all the later meetings. He first outlined the taxonomy of behaviour patterns and then went on to illustrate his theme with some very amusing anecdotes.

On January 11th, 1957, we entertained Mr. Rainford from the National Cash Register Co. Ltd., who was accompanied by an accounting machine, which seemed to have the ability to do everything around an office, except brew tea.

One week later Mr. Band from Manchester Airport came and delivered an informative lecture on *The Weather* after first looking over the Meteorological Section's instruments. In spite of his description of the number of 'Met' stations throughout the world, I'm afraid that a few members still felt that the 'Weather Men' were very miserly with their sunshine.

Falshaw Hall, Wilmslow, provided our next evening's entertainment (in the best sense of the word). On January 31st, Mr. Bryant of I.C.I. gave a profusely illustrated talk on *The Origins and Uses of Modern Drugs*. He concluded with a description of the processing of the most modern drugs, all of which, funnily enough, seemed to be made by I.C.I.

A very well-attended lecture was held a fortnight later. The lecturer was Mr. Bush, his subject: *Hi-Fi*. After an excursion into the technicalities of the subject he gave members the freedom of his 'transcription-desk' (gramophone to non-members) and it is with sorrow that we record that they were soon *Rockin' thro' the Block*, to Mr. William Haley and his Celestial Musicians.

Our last meeting before going to the press was a selection of I.C.I. films shown on February 28th. A full house saw a wide variety of films covering subjects from Sewage Disposal to a Fashion Parade. The films were shown by arrangement with Mr. Boyle.

We would like to thank all those who have produced posters during the year, especially Anderson and Harvey who, although only in the lower school and so unable to attend the meetings, have rendered an invaluable service.

Next term the Society looks forward to a full programme of visits, including one to the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's establishment at Calder Hall.

The Music Society

Use has finally been made of our funds and two new long-playing records have been bought. On February 2nd, the first of these, comprising three works by Brahms, the *Concerto for 'Cello and Violin*, the *Academic Overture* and the *Tragic Overture*, was played. The recording is marred by the lack of contrast in tone between the orchestra and the solo instruments. However the violin playing of Mr. Isaac Stern amply compensates.

Mr. Rix, on February 9th, gave an illustrated talk on a little-known cantata by Bach. The fine singing, which brought out fully the various moods of the composer, made this a worthwhile meeting.

The second new L.P., of Dr. Vaughan Williams' *Symphony No. 8*, was played on February 16th, and was preceded by a talk on its structure and content by J. S. Reich. The amazing feature about this work is that so aged a person as the composer should produce such a virile work. The haunting strings, the use of traditional structure, combined with frequent touches of modern style, these and all other characteristics of his are present.

As usual, our Jazz programme attracted the biggest audience. On March 2nd P. S. Harrison talked and played traditional jazz. He told of the beginnings in Africa and the musical results of the slave trade, then he went on to the gradual attainment of melodic (or unmelodic) order connected with New Orleans and the shifting of the jazz scene to Chicago. He concluded an enjoyable meeting by playing his listeners out to Louis Armstrong, King Oliver and Kid Ory.

We wish to thank again J. M. Spence for supplying us with our posters.

The Donner Library

"A library," said Victor Hugo, "is an act of faith." It was in the faith that the task would one day be finished that the librarians commenced a new catalogue this term. The Head Librarian, J. E. O. Screen, has been mainly occupied with this work, which, when completed, will greatly facilitate stock-taking.

From the beginning of term until 26th February, 401 books have been borrowed from the library. Would users of the library please remember to replace books and papers correctly after perusal?

G. A. M. Wood, the assistant librarian, has also been engaged with the catalogue and helping to bind the paper-cover books, a steady number of which is entering the library.

This term twenty-seven new volumes have been placed on the shelves. We wish to thank the following Old Hulmeians who have presented books: P. J. Richards; E. W. Dickinson; J. R. Taylor and I. M. Stewart. We also wish to thank H. H. Vlies, Esq., O.H., for his usual gifts of French magazines and for ordering a German weekly newspaper for the library.

The Leonardo da Vinci Society

Three meetings have been held since December.

As announced, the Society heard T. W. Woodward speak on *Manchester, City of Achievements*. This meeting, held on December 7th at the Head-

master's house, was most enjoyable and informative. Woodward gave a summary of the city's history, and then spoke of its wealth, architecture and claims to fame. During the lively discussion which followed, the Society agreed that Mancunians have no cause to deride their city.

The following meetings were held at Dr. Jecny's house.

On February 1st, J. M. Temperley read a paper entitled *The History of Medicine*. This was a very comprehensive survey of medical, clinical and surgical developments from ancient Greek to modern times. Temperley related these improvements with an obvious relish which was not shared by some of his audience. The paper stimulated a vast number of questions, and an especially long discussion.

I. R. MacCallum read his paper on *Pre-Renaissance Mathematics* on March 1st. His historical survey dealt with a bewildering variety of men and ideas, and the illustrations and examples were especially useful. Another long and enjoyable discussion followed this lively, vital and exceptionally good talk on a difficult subject.

Finally we must thank Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Jecny for their generous hospitality and refreshments.

The Table Tennis Club

Since the last report went to press, the club has seen a period of ever-increasing activity and progress.

Firstly, in the final of the Knock-out Tournament held last term, C. R. L. Mark defeated A. G. Lees without much difficulty; with the prize-money given to him by Mr. Renny and Mr. Kirkham he was already considering buying a new type of bat when he had to leave the school. We wish him the best of Table Tennis success at his new school in Leicester.

A most significant milestone in the Club's history was reached on November 30th, 1956—namely, its first fixture with another school, when we were invited to Urmston Grammar School. Our hopes were soon dashed however by Urmston's excellent play and they gained an overwhelming victory by seven games to three.

The return match was held in the gymnasium on January 11th, 1957. Despite changes in both teams, and although many more matches went to three games, Urmston improved on their previous victory, this time winning by eight games to two.

Nevertheless the Club has managed to be victorious once, in a doubles match against the School Prefects on February 21st, 1957. It was

quite obvious that our opponents' natural abilities had been somewhat interfered with by their own miniature version of the game. Our thanks go out to them, however, firstly for the refreshments, and secondly for our victory by six games to two.

The teams for all these matches have been selected from the following members: C. R. L. Mark; E. R. Birch; I. C. Smith; M. P. Robinson; D. A. Weyl; W. A. Drapkin; I. H. Birtwistle; T. W. Batley and B. A. Jackson.

The interest of some of the lower forms is a very encouraging sign and we have been glad to lend them our tables from time to time for their own tournaments.

Meanwhile practice has continued as usual at all the times allotted to the Club, which were recently increased by the addition of Thursday dinner-times. The membership was increased to twenty-five at the beginning of the Lent term and all subscriptions have been paid, so that the Club is at the moment in a very healthy and active condition.

The Photographic Society

In the first half of the term the Society has not been particularly active. Only two lectures have been received from Kodak Ltd., all enlargements and slides having been booked.

On February 7th a showing of *A Peep Behind the Scenes* was given. This took members on a 'conducted tour' through one of the many large factories of the most extensive photographic organisations in the world. The manufacture of films, plates, papers, cameras and other photographic equipment was dealt with. An insight into the integration of such an undertaking was also given, putting the rest into perspective.

The next lecture was on February 26th, at four o'clock, *Making Exhibition Pictures*. A major part of the lecture was a dissertation on the way in which competitions should be approached, the differences between pictorial photographs and a 'record' of other types of photography, the technical and aesthetic qualities to be observed. This was followed by forty-eight slides from London Salons and the Royal Photographic Society. Each slide was illustrated with comments and information on exposure, filters, etc.

On March 7th, Mr. W. Wyatt from Photographic Services Ltd., Manchester, delivered a very interesting evening lecture on *8mm. Cine Photography*, and illustrated it with some of his own work. There followed a talk on modern low-priced equipment for carrying out this most absorbing hobby.

Projected plans include:—

March 12th—An evening on photographic gadgets, organised by the members.

March 21st—*Indoor Portraiture* by officers of the Society.

March 26th—An illustrated evening lecture which promises much, *Colour through the Microscope*, by Mr. R. A. Haynes.

R. F. Crane was elected Deputy-Secretary during the temporary absence of J. G. Taylor.

Once more the Society wishes to thank Mrs. L. Bland for providing tea and biscuits for members attending evening meetings.

C.C.F. Notes

Training has once more continued steadily this term. The results of the Part II examination, held last November, were extremely disappointing and the improvement noted in our last Notes was not continued. It is hoped that the results of a forthcoming Part I examination, to be held in March, will show a considerable improvement.

The Adjutant of the Manchester Regiment, Captain Farrar, visited the Contingent last November and gave a most interesting and informative talk on *The Regimental History of the Manchester Regiment*.

A number of visits have recently been paid by Technical and Cadre Platoons to 252 Field Regt. R.A. (T.A.) and courses in Gun Drill have been arranged.

The Contingent entered a team in the Cadet Section of the North West District Small Bore Championship for the first time. The team was: Cpl. Smith, A. I. A., L/Cpl. Brown, Cds. Howarth, Whitmore and Williams, J. L. Previously Cpl. Taylor, R. J. G., had been appointed Team Captain but unfortunately he was not able to shoot in the Competition. Nevertheless a good total was obtained. The final result is not yet known.

Many of the Contingent have fired the Empire Test under the supervision of Mr. Moseley, and the majority have gained either a 1st or 2nd Class. It is hoped that we shall be able to fire 303 on our next Field Day at Crowden in March.

On the occasion of his marriage the N.C.Os. presented Major Evans with a tea service and sandwich set, together with their best wishes.

The Annual Inspection this year will take place on Friday, 31st May. The Inspecting Officer will be Major-General R. B. F. K. Goldsmith, C.B., C.B.E.

Promotions recently have been as follows:—

Week ending Friday, 15th December: Cpls. Booth and Broadbridge to Sgt.; Cdts. Boyle, Craven, Leach, Ward to L/Cpl.

Week ending Friday, 26th January: L/Cpls. Johnson and McCallum to Cpl.

Rugby Football

FIRST XV

Thurs. Nov. 22 v. Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wakefield L 13—25

We were well beaten, but by no means disgraced, in an excellent game. The Wakefield backs ran harder and showed greater skill than ours, but the honours in the forward battle were about even. Wakefield were 11 points up at half-time; but, during an exciting come back, first B. A. Jackson and then N. V. Barber scored tries, both of which were converted, to make the score 11—10. This spurred Wakefield to greater efforts, and some clever running, assisted by defensive lapses on our part, left no doubt as to the better side. Even so, the School side continued to play with determination and G. S. Phillips scored a good try.

Wed. Nov. 28 v. Wallasey Grammar School W 8—6

The weather and ground conditions were so bad that almost up to the time of the kick-off there was doubt of our playing. The very strong wind made orthodox movements almost impossible. M. Lord, playing once more at full-back, retrieved many difficult situations, and, when he did join in a movement, thrust his way through what appeared to be almost all the opposition to score a try under the posts which N. V. Barber converted. J. D. Hague scored the other try from a quick heel near the line. The forwards seemed to lack something of their customary fire, and in the closing minutes of the game, our opponents, playing against the wind, came very near to saving the match.

Sat. Dec. 1 v. Merchant Taylors', Crosby L 3—11

This was a very hard game in which Crosby, particularly in the first half, showed some fine attacking forward play. The handling of their backs was fortunately not as good as it could have been, and the School defence was generally sound, otherwise our opponent's first half lead might have been greater. Our own half-backs, harried by quick breaking wing forwards, were unable to get the School three-quarters moving. In the second half the School fought back well, and our forwards dominated the play, both in the line out and loose for long periods. Towards the end A. W. Day scored what was perhaps the best try of the season after a forward break by R. A. Dearden.

Sat. Dec. 15 v. Sale R.U.F.C. School XV L 11—14

For this game the School was without N. V. Barber and T. J. Bush. The forwards, however, played extremely well and showed up favourably against a much heavier school pack. A. F. Pitty made a blind-side break to send A. W. Day over for a try, but on the whole the backs got little chance for constructive attack. It was pleasing to note their resolute tackling. The result of the game was in doubt until the final whistle.

The 1st XV won six matches and lost eight, scoring 142 points to the 151 points scored against it. Of the School matches four were lost and five won. The School forwards have normally played hard, reaching their highest excellence against a strong Birkenhead School pack and showing their poorest form against Wallasey Grammar School. The three-quarters had little chance to show their form because of an apparent inability of the half-backs to develop any lasting understanding. In the forwards N. V. Barber and T. J. Bush were outstanding throughout the season, and R. A. Dearden was using his height and weight conspicuously towards the end of the season. In the backs M. Lord showed flashes of individual brilliance.

Special congratulations are due to N. V. Barber who captained the Cheshire Schoolboys XV and was praised in the press for his play, and also to M. Lord who played centre three-quarter for Lancashire Schoolboys, and, if the published reports are to be relied upon, practically won the game for Lancashire on his own!

Colours were awarded to: N. V. Barber, M. Lord, J. M. Birtwhistle, M. J. Booth, T. J. Bush, J. Davies, R. A. Dearden, A. M. Fish, J. D. Hague, B. A. Jackson, G. H. Lynn, A. F. Pitty, G. S. Phillips, J. S. Wright.

SECOND XV

The 2nd XV was extraordinarily inconsistent. They were ably captained by B. Cartwright, who on his day is one of the neatest players in the School. The results varied from a 51 points to six points victory, to a forty-one points to nil defeat. There are a number of promising players whom we hope to see distinguishing themselves in the 1st XV next season.

Thurs. Nov. 22 v. Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wakefield L 0—14

Wed. Nov. 28 v. Wallasey Grammar School W 14—13

Sat. Dec. 1 v. Merchant Taylors', Crosby L 3—19

Colours were awarded to: B. Cartwright, P. M. Bagguley, A. F. Bennett, A. Brooks, T. Craven, T. V. Jones, F. A. Kynaston, J. D. Marsden, A. P. H. Perry, O. A. Price, I. C. Smith, H. M. Stockwell, A. F. Warrell, D. L. Watkin, B. Wienholt, T. V. Woodward.

THIRD XV

The 3rd XV played five matches, winning two of them and losing three. The team showed pleasing keenness, and by beating Burnage 2nd XV in a final away match showed how much they had improved during the term. There is no doubt that this team plays an important part in encouraging keenness in those VIth formers who have not gained notice lower down the School, and in revealing talent that might otherwise not gain deserved recognition.

HOUSE RUGBY

Once again we were very fortunate with the weather and very few games had to be cancelled. For the most part the ground was dry and as a result little experience was had with a wet ball.

The league competition was waged with great keenness and the overall standard was good. There was, however, far too much high tackling and frequent failure to drop on the ball. Until players realize the importance of these basic skills, the standard of our rugger will never be as high as it should.

The competition was won by Dalton.

The Knock-outs were as usual played with great gusto and Byrom, in winning the senior competition, revealed a first-class and well-balanced side. The junior competition, which was won by Dalton, was equally exciting and showed some promising players.

The term finished with the Sevens, and the play showed a great improvement on last year. There is, however, a great deal to be learnt in this very, very different technique. The final was won by Gaskell, who beat Fraser after extra time.

Lacrosse

FIRST XII

The grounds and rain have been a serious handicap to this term's practising and in consequence the play of the first team has not reached the usual standard. With only four of last year's first team available some experiments had to be tried in deciding on the First Twelve.

Bradley, except for one or two weak performances, has been good in goal. Lord, Barber and Phillips have been the backbone of the defence with Williams and Davies improving with every game.

Stockwell, who replaced Birtwistle at centre after the first two games, has been a great success and no other player has excelled him in energy.

The attacks, individually, all good crosse handlers, have failed us at times against strong opponents.

After an easy win against Stockport Grammar School we met and defeated Old Hulmeians Extra 'A' in the Second Round of the Lancashire Junior Cup. Then followed wins against Manchester Grammar School and Cheadle 'A'. We lost 3-6 against Cheadle Hulme School away but should have made the result closer. Then followed our exit from the Lancashire Junior Cup competition in the semi-final against a very strong Urmston 'A' team but only after a gallant struggle in the last quarter.

We have had a pleasant game against Nottingham University away, which we won and against Manchester University 'A' team which we lost.

The team visited Oxford at mid-term and played the University side. Though they were well beaten, the School put up a good fight in the second half, and spent a most interesting and enjoyable weekend in Oxford.

M. Lord, N. V. Barber, J. D. Hague, B. Cartwright and A. Brooks played for the Lancashire Schoolboys against Cheshire Schoolboys on March 2nd.

RESULTS

Jan. 12 v. Stockport Grammar School A W 25-8

We were without Lord and Barber, our Captain and Vice-Captain, but after starting slowly, took the measure of our opponents, and the attack found little difficulty in scoring. The ground was heavy and muddy, and the defences found it hard to keep their feet.

Team: W. A. Bradley, J. L. Williams, D. W. Lomas, H. M. Stockwell, J. Davis (Captain), G. S. Phillips, J. M. Birtwistle, J. D. Hague, A. F. Pitty, A. F. Warrell, A. Brooks, B. Cartwright.

Jan. 16 v. Nottingham University A W 19-2

Lord and Barber returned to the team in place of Lomas and Birtwistle, and Stockwell was moved to centre. Hague was absent, so M. P. Robinson was brought in at wing attack. The game was one-sided, as most of the Nottingham team showed more strength than skill.

Jan. 19 v. Old Hulmeians Extra 'A' H W 15-6
(Second Round Lancashire Junior Cup).

Hague returned in place of Robinson, and the attack started at tremendous pace to which the Old Boys' defence had no answer until N. R. Coe, still a very young and fit veteran, fell back from the attack. This and the good goalkeeping of D. F. Borland checked our rate of scoring.

Jan. 26 v. Manchester Grammar School H W 12-5

The ground was very muddy, and our attack started very slowly. The game was even for the first quarter, but then the attack livened up, and Brooks, well fed by Cartwright's passes, got some good goals. Our defence was steady, and Bradley did well in goal.

Feb. 2 v. Cheadle 'A' H W 9—5

In spite of the absence of Lord, who was replaced by Lomas, the defence played steadily against an experienced attack, and even managed to control a man playing on the crease. The attack seemed to lack thrust, and played too slowly.

Feb. 6 v. Manchester University 'A' A L 6—9

The University turned out a strong team, consisting mainly of Old Hulmeians, and in spite of the continued absence of Lord, the defence put up a good fight. The attack was rather slow in going for the loose ball, and lacked determination in fighting for it.

Feb. 9 v. Cheadle Hulme School A L 3—6

Our defence took some time to adapt themselves to the very difficult conditions, as the steeply sloping ground was muddy and slippery. Cheadle Hulme scored some of their goals with long shots down the hill, which were very difficult to judge. But the game was lost by our attack. They moved very cautiously on the treacherous surface, but still had numerous chances which they wasted by very inaccurate shooting.

Feb. 16 v. Urmston 'A', Old Hulmeians' Ground (Semi Final Lancashire Junior Cup) L 8—10

Urmston were a very large and powerful team, and we were unable to prevent them from slowing down the game to their pace. Their attack, cleverly directed by an American player, held the ball, and gradually worked their way nearer to goal. Their shooting was powerful and accurate, and repeatedly beat Bradley off the ground, though he stood up to them all. Our attack, on which B. Wienholt replaced Pitty, tried hard, but the big Urmston defence refused to be drawn away from goal, and was supported by very good goalkeeping.

The game was even throughout, but they scored three quick goals immediately after half-time, and thereafter concentrated on keeping the ball. In spite of an all-out effort we could not make up the arrears. Stockwell at centre played a particularly good game.

Feb. 23 v. Oxford University A L 5—20

Our visit to Oxford at half term was most enjoyable and interesting in spite of the very wet weather, and we are most grateful to the University team and the Oxford Old Hulmeians for their hospitality, and for showing us so much of interest in Oxford.

The game was played in the Parks, and in the first half our defence found it difficult to hold a fast and clever attack, and were not helped by Bradley's unsteadiness in goal. Meanwhile, our attack made little impression on their powerful defences, and at half time Oxford were leading 14—1. The second half was more even. The defence played better, and Bradley made a number of good saves. Forcing from the defence not only helped

our attack, but helped to tire theirs, and we scored four goals to their six.

SECOND XII

So far this term two of our matches have been cancelled and one postponed, which is very disappointing for a keen and promising side. Of the four matches played, three have been won and one lost. Our defeat was at Urmston, where the 'B' team was reinforced by six first-team players. We welcomed the opportunity of playing against skilled and experienced opponents, and were glad to find that although beaten, we were by no means out-classed. Our other close game was against Cheadle Hulme School.

Lomas has been a very keen captain, and has been well supported.

RESULTS

Jan. 12 v. Cheadle 'B'	H W 12—0
Jan. 19 v. Urmston 'B'	A L 9—13
Jan. 26 v. Manchester G.S.	A W 21—3
Feb. 9 v. Cheadle Hulme School	H W 8—6

The following have played: D. W. Lomas (Captain), F. A. Kynaston, A. F. Pitty, B. Wienholt, W. D. Yale, T. W. Batley, J. D. Marsden, J. M. Birtwistle, H. R. MacCallum, M. P. Robinson, M. H. F. Cocker, P. Bardsley, T. Craven, I. C. Smith, J. B. Kershaw, R. H. Eldridge, D. K. Swindells.

JUNIOR TEAMS

This has so far been the wettest term for many years, and the field, usually the driest in the district, has been almost permanently soft and muddy. Games have had to be cancelled frequently, and the teams have therefore been short of practice. There is no lack of enthusiasm, and the standard of handling is quite reasonable, but neither team has developed tactical skill. The attacks seldom build up a movement by passing and running into position, and the defences, though good as individuals, are weak in covering.

The Under 15 XII has so far played six matches, won four, and lost two. One defeat was on the Cheadle Hulme School ground, made even more difficult than usual by the wet conditions, and we hope to give them a closer game in the return match. The game against Manchester Grammar School, and both games against Mellor Juniors, were close and hard fought, and in the first we were unfortunate in losing Lawless with a broken collar bone, which has kept him out of the team ever since.

The Under 14 XII has won four matches and drawn one, and with more experience should become a useful side. Both games with Audenshaw Grammar School Under 15 were very close, but in neither game was our full side available.

RESULTS—UNDER 15

Jan. 16 v. Stockport G.S.	A W	15—3
Jan. 26 v. Manchester G.S.	H W	9—7
Feb. 2 v. Mellor Juniors	H W	5—3
Feb. 9 v. Cheadle Hulme School	A L	5—11
Feb. 16 v. Offerton Juniors	H W	11—1
Mar. 2 v. Mellor Juniors	A L	2—4

The following have played: M. Billcliff (Captain), J. S. Gallagher, M. J. Friend, D. Paton, A. S. Addison, I. M. Lawless, D. W. Robinson, B. Hayes, J. B. Parkinson, P. Barnes, A. G. Jones, A. K. C. Rodgers, M. A. Kerr, A. G. Chesworth, D. C. Williams.

M. Billcliff, J. S. Gallagher, D. Paton, B. Hayes and P. Barnes have been chosen for the Lancashire Under 15 team against Cheshire.

RESULTS—UNDER 14

Jan. 19 v. Manchester G.S. Under 15 2nd	H W	17—0
Jan. 26 v. Manchester G.S. Under 15 2nd	A W	19—0
Feb. 9 v. Cheadle Hulme School Under 15 2nd	H W	10—3
Feb. 16 v. Audenshaw G.S. Under 15 1st	H W	8—7
Mar. 2 v. Audenshaw G.S. Under 15 1st	A D	5—5

The following have played: J. S. Litherland (Captain), J. H. Dixon, C. D. Townsend, R. W. Welsby, W. R. Allman, D. P. Swain, J. Hill, A. H. Williamson, A. R. Lyons, M. R. Kay, D. G. Moore, J. P. I. McNulty, M. C. Davies, A. F. Thomas, M. T. M. Hannant.

Cross-Country Running

There has been a full programme this term, and from the fixtures so far run it would appear that we have a very sound Senior Team and a rather weak Under 16 Team with some good individual runners.

D. L. Watkin is again Captain, and is running much more consistently than last year. He has worked hard at his job and has been a real encouragement to the rest of the team.

K. P. Geddes, P. T. C. Gutteridge and G. Field, the old Colours, have all run well again. Together with F. J. McMellan, whose vastly improved form is most heartening, they have packed very well in the middle order and have thereby been a very large factor in the team's success. E. P. Mosley, C. H. F. Turner, A. Bennett, J. A. Hurd and J. N. C. Wilford have all run frequently and proved themselves worthy members of the team.

W. D. Yale has again run for us several times and on every occasion has finished first. He is a runner of great promise, and will give a much needed boost to the Under 16 Team at Lyme Park.

N. M. Parr is a most useful newcomer to the Under 16 Team, and the running of J. Whitmore, J. G. Banks and D. Sharples has been sound. The team, however, is not yet running well as a whole, and it is this which has caused their long line of defeats.

Full details of matches will be given next term.

First XI Cricket Fixtures, 1957

Wed. May 8	Hulme Hall	Home
Sat. May 11	Bolton School	Home
Wed. May 15		
Fri. May 17	Manchester Cricket Club	Home
Sat. May 18	Cheadle Hulme School...	Away
Wed. May 22	Athletic Sports.	
Sat. May 25	King Edward VII School, Lytham	Away
Wed. May 29	Wallasey Grammar School	Home
Sat. June 1	Manchester Grammar School	Away
Wed. June 5	House Matches. Whitsuntide Holiday.	
Wed. June 19	Whalley Range C.C.	Away
Sat. June 22	King's School, Macclesfield	Away
Wed. June 26	The Parents	Home
Sat. June 29	House Matches.	
Wed. July 3	Old Hulmeians	Home
Sat. July 6	House Matches.	
Wed. July 10	The Staff	Home
Sat. July 13	Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby	Away
Wed. July 17	Birkenhead School	Home
Thurs. July 18	Queen Elizabeth G.S., Wakefield	Away

House Notes

BYROM HOUSE

At the end of the Christmas term G. H. Lynn was appointed a School Prefect, and A. N. S. Guthrie a House Prefect.

In the seven-a-side House Rugger Competition the Senior VII lost in the semi-final, but the Senior 'A' VII won their section.

The following in the House were awarded their School Rugger Colours: J. D. Hague (re-awarded) A. F. Pitty, G. H. Lynn and I. M. Birtwistle.

The Senior House Lacrosse Team has been captained by R. S. Lurie, and the Junior House by I. H. K. Flinter. So far all league matches have been won except one by the Seniors, and the House is second in the House League table.

In the Knock-out Competition the Senior House has been captained by J. D. Hague. In the 1st round we beat Whitworth 9-4, and in the semi-final, Gaskell 11-5. We now play Fraser in the final. The Junior House has been captained by J. B. Parkinson. In the first round they beat Gaskell 7-5, and Heywood 20-0 in the semi-final. They now meet Dalton in the final.

The following members of the House have been awarded their School Lacrosse Colours: J. D. Hague (re-awarded) and H. M. Stockwell, and A. F. Pitty has been re-awarded his 2nd XII colours.

J. D. Hague has been selected to play for Lancashire Schoolboys Lacrosse Team against Cheshire.

The House gained third place in the Inter-House Drama Competition with their satirical drama by F. Sladen-Smith, *The Waters of Lethe*. D. B. Taylor, M. C. Johnson, D. J. C. Williams and D. Arnold played leading rôles. Other parts were taken by D. H. Lurie, J. D. Marsden, P. M. Hill, K. McAlpine, B. W. Derbyshire and C. W. Dearden. The settings were designed by L. T. Keymer, and the production was directed by B. W. Derbyshire.

DALTON HOUSE

The House Play—Dalton House play was the first to be produced. It can be said without doubt that the House set a high standard indeed and were fourth in the competition. I. A. B. Low, J. S. Wright and P. J. Killan are to be complimented on their fine performances.

Rugby—In the seven-a-side competition the House was narrowly beaten by the Gaskell House team (who went on to win). R. A. Dearden played an exceptionally fine game for the House. The forwards were generally the masters of the Gaskell

scrum but the three-quarters failed to use their chances.

School 1st XV colours were awarded to R. A. Dearden and to J. S. Wright and 2nd XV colours to A. Brooks and D. A. Price.

Lacrosse—In the first round of the Knock-outs the House suffered a defeat at the hands of Fraser; yet, although the score was high, the House played a good game and never ceased to attack the opponents' goal. The House League team is exceptionally strong and we hope to maintain our position at the top of the League.

A. Brooks has been re-awarded his 1st XII colours and has been selected to play for Lancashire Schoolboys for the second year in succession. The Junior XII have once more reached the final of Inter-House Knock-outs by a resounding victory over Fraser.

FRASER HOUSE

The House finished the Rugby season by making a good showing in the seven-a-side competition and by heading the League table with a clear margin—a result which fairly reflects the keen and hard play of all three teams. The Seniors in particular played well together as a team.

House Colours were awarded to—Senior: B. A. Jackson, D. L. Watkin, T. W. Batley, H. Bibby, F. A. Kynaston, D. L. Mather and N. M. Parr. Junior: R. M. F. Linford, J. E. Ellis, A. J. Gordon, D. L. Jones, C. R. L. Mark, K. H. Rivett, A. L. Townsend and A. L. Thorneley.

The prospect in games this term is as good or better. At the time of writing the House is again at the head of the League, and the Senior team has reached the final of the Knock-outs by defeating Dalton and Heywood. This is a young side, noteworthy for a good attacking combination and ably led by F. A. Kynaston. The Junior team, captained by R. M. Linford, beat Whitworth on a muddy pitch but were outmatched by Dalton.

D. L. Watkin is captain of the School Cross-Country Running team and is busy building up a team for the House Run.

An account of the Drama Competition may be read elsewhere. Sufficient for us to express our thanks to the band of players and their producer, C. W. Beaumont, for facing the imperative call to 'strut and fret one hour upon a stage', and for the work they put into the attempt.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to J. E. O. Screen on being awarded an Open Exhibition in History at Peterhouse, Cambridge: our sympathies to the Head of the House, J. G. Taylor, on his long absence. We wish him a lasting recovery.

GASKELL HOUSE

The House obtained some satisfaction for its defeat in the Rugger Knock-outs by winning the Seven-a-Sides. We congratulate Lord on his selection for Lancashire Schoolboys against Cheshire and also against Cumberland and Westmorland, and Bush and Davis on their selection for South East Lancashire Schoolboys.

In the Lacrosse Knock-outs the Seniors reached the semi-final without much difficulty, but were then beaten by Byrom in a game which will be remembered for a long time both by those who played in it and those who watched. The final score was 5-11. The Juniors were beaten in the First Round, also by Byrom, by the narrow margin of 5-7.

Campbell of Kilmhor was the title of the House Play. R. V. Chadwick was outstanding in the title rôle, and was ably supported by J. M. A. Thompson (Mary Stuart), A. H. Williamson (Morag), R. B. Rudkin (Dugald) and P. Clark (MacKenzie). T. J. Bush used his Corps. experience to the best advantage as Captain Sandeman. Other parts were played by J. M. Crook, K. J. Taylor and C. S. Cooper. T. V. Jones is to be warmly congratulated on an excellent production, which was enjoyed by all who saw it, and J. M. Temperley thanked for all the help he gave. The play was placed second in the Competition.

The following are to be congratulated on their various appointments:—

School Prefect—M. Lord.

House Prefects—F. J. McMellan, P. Taylor, J. N. C. Wilford.

Captain of School Lacrosse and Lancashire Schoolboys XII—M. Lord.

1st XV Colours—M. Lord, T. J. Bush, J. Davis.

1st XII Colours—M. Lord, J. L. Williams, J. Davis. B. Weinhold has also played for the 1st XII.

HEYWOOD HOUSE

Since the last report A. Belford has been appointed a House Prefect.

This being the Lacrosse term, it has been pleasing to see a number of the House on School teams. G. S. Phillips, A. F. Warrell, B. Cartwright, have been awarded 1st team colours. W. D. Yale and D. W. Lomas are playing for the 2nd team, of which Lomas is the captain.

In the House Knock-out Competition we were fortunate in obtaining byes for both the Junior and Senior teams. Unfortunately both these teams lost heavily to Byrom and Fraser respectively in the Semi-Finals.

T. W. Woodward produced an enjoyable House play—*The Bishop's Candlesticks*. The results were very close and consequently Heywood were placed fifth, being beaten by Dalton by $\frac{2}{3}$ mark.

The tone of the House has been rather disappointing this term, especially in that the Seniors do not seem to be taking enough interest in the Juniors. It is hoped that this fault will soon be remedied.

WHITWORTH HOUSE

At half-term the following were appointed House Prefects: W. A. Bradley, D. M. Brierley and I. Sargen.

On reflection we see that we had a fairly successful end to the Michaelmas term with several members of the House taking prominent parts in the school opera. On the sporting side the House partially atoned for its lapse in being knocked-out by Byrom in the semi-final of the House Rugger Knock-outs, by putting up a good performance in the seven-a-side competition.

1st XV colours were re-awarded to N. V. Barber and awarded to M. J. Booth and A. M. Fish. 2nd XV colours were awarded to I. C. Smith and P. M. Bagguley.

The House carried on its tradition of winning each new award offered for inter-House competition when the Whitworth Strolling Players carried off the House-play trophy in the face of strong competition from Gaskell and Byrom. For this fine achievement many thanks are due to F. Cosgrove, who not only produced the play (a portion of *Henry IV*), but took the major rôle of Falstaff. Thanks are also due to Mr. Dudman for his criticism at the dress-rehearsal. The other members of the cast were: D. D. A. Lamb, I. A. Rodger, J. P. Bishop, M. Unsworth, I. C. Smith, N. V. Barber, M. J. Booth, D. Wallace, I. Sargen and R. Bellas.

In the 'crosse Knock-outs the House did well to limit a strong Byrom attack to nine goals while itself scoring four goals.

1st XII colours were re-awarded to N. V. Barber and W. A. Bradley.

The Hulme Lads' Club

We knew when we started this year that a great effort would be needed to meet the increased cost of running the Club, an increase which was inevitable in consequence of the death of Mr. Hough. We feared also that we should lose the large amount collected each year by P. J. Richards, now at Exeter University, and were further concerned lest the appeal for the Hungarian refugees would cause money to be diverted from the Club.

Difficulties can be a discouragement or an excuse, but they can also be an incentive to greater effort,

and we are very pleased that all handicaps have been overcome and that the collection, £781 7s. 2d., is the best we have ever made.

Richards has left the School, but has left a young brother in the Prep., and the family tradition has been maintained with a contribution of £53. This has helped to set up a new record of £142 6s. 0d. for the Preparatory Department.

In the Main School, Form 2B led the way with a total of £61 3s. 6d., and were followed by 1B with £51 13s. 5d. We feel that if all forms could make the same effort, the collection could be even bigger.

Our thanks are again due to Mr. Pentelow for counting and banking all the money. His efficient accountancy is only equalled by his patient good temper.

The Headmaster has received the following letter from the President of the Club:—

"30th January, 1957.

Dear Mr. Bird,

It gives me very great pleasure to write once again to thank the School for breaking its own record and producing a most magnificent result from the annual collection in aid of the Hulme Lads' Club. The excellent total of £781 7s. 2d. means that a great deal of enthusiastic work has been performed by the boys, by members of the staff, and also, I am certain, by many of the parents. Every member of the Club has reason to be grateful to you all for this most generous effort.

A record collection is particularly welcome at present because the Club has to face a good deal of increased expenditure at a time made more difficult by the loss of Mr. Harry Hough, himself an Old Hulmeian, who was our Secretary for so many years.

I am sure you will be good enough to let everyone concerned know of the very real gratitude of all members of the Club.

Yours sincerely,

D. LLOYD GRIFFITHS."

FORM TOTALS AND AVERAGES

	£	s.	d.	Average per head £ s. d.
6C.U.	6	5	0	12 6
6M.U.	7	0	0	9 4
6L.U.	10	3	0	7 3
6M.U.	6	4	0	11 3
6U.S.	15	0	0	5 9
6C.L.	1	11	6	6 4
6M.L.	5	11	0	7 6
6L.L.	8	8	3	9 11
6L.M.	5	6	6	10 8
6L.S.	24	1	9	13 0
6L.X.	8	13	3	1 1 8
5A.	18	16	6	11 9

	£	s.	d.	Average per head £ s. d.
5S.	20	13	1	13 4
5Y.	21	3	8	12 10
4A.	22	11	0	16 8
4S.	31	14	0	19 10
4Y.	29	10	4	18 5
3A.	16	15	7	10 10
3B.	24	17	9	16 7
2A.	37	7	6	1 4 1
2B.	61	3	6	1 18 3
2Y.	39	2	0	1 4 5
1A.	42	15	4	1 5 11
1B.	51	13	5	1 12 4
1C.	36	15	8	1 2 4
1D.	48	16	0	1 10 6
Prep.	142	6	0	1 7 8

Winter Sports, 1956

We left Victoria Station, London, on December 27th, 1956, and arrived at Mayrhofen in Zillertal, Austria, 1,100 miles away, after thirty hours of continuous travelling through Belgium and Germany. The journey was uneventful, although there was some excitement when the tedium of the South Bavarian plateau gave way to the Austrian mountains.

Mayrhofen, in the famous Zillertal valley, is a typical Tyrolean village. It is fairly compact, and stands at the confluence of three minor valleys, at the head of the Zillertal proper, being forty miles from Innsbruck and some twenty from the Brenner Pass. The mountains surround it and appear to rise almost perpendicularly from the valley bottom. Consequently one has to gaze upwards beyond the snow-covered pine forest and the jagged peaks to see the startlingly blue sky. Patches of brilliant sunlight are seen to move across the mountain snowfields whilst the valley bottom is in the shade, and dusk sometimes produces a faint Alpine glow which is made more impressive by the gloom in the valley.

Our hotel, a typical Austrian 'Gasthof', was, like most of the buildings in Mayrhofen, of chalet construction. Unlike most, however, it was not built entirely of wood, and we were able to compare it with the various types of local architecture, from ornate houses, decorated with shingles and carvings, to the functional concrete Post Office and Town Hall.

The Winter Sports party from school had visited Mayrhofen in 1955, and some members of the party compared our present hotel very favourably with the one they had then used. Its meals were both enjoyable and adequate, although the occasional use of rice instead of potatoes caused some anguish.

But we had come to ski, and we were soon equipped with skis, sticks and boots. The party then split up into various groups according to ability, and only met together in the evenings. P. J. Richards (O.H.) and K. Hinson (O.H.) who were with us were the most expert skiers, and spent their time finding runs. Others joined various ski-school classes, and practised turns for hours on end, whilst the beginners floundered about quite happily on gentler slopes.

When we were crossing Germany the snow level had been growing deeper, and on arrival we found several inches of snow in the town itself, and it was freezing hard. Consequently the mountains on which we skied had even deeper snow, and some sunny days produced almost perfect conditions. But a severe thaw took place after a few days, caused by the premature and entirely unexpected arrival of the warm 'Föhn' wind. The layer of snow in the valley disappeared overnight, the spectacularly large icicles melted, and for the rest of the time we were to see green fields and muddy banks.

Yet there were compensations. Our journey in the cable railway to the mountain ski-slopes produced even more spectacular views, skiing was always possible on the slopes, and Mayrhofen itself had many delights. The shops with the products of local crafts were a constant attraction. We all soon learnt that the Austrian reputation for cream cakes was justified, and the cafés were open late every night providing musical entertainment and dancing.

New Year's Eve produced more violent celebrations than we are normally accustomed to in Britain. After a riotous evening, midnight was heralded by the darkening of all lights and the arrival of a young sweep carrying a piglet. Twelfth Night brought more traditional revelry, with the local inhabitants being masked and dancing into every hotel.

It was unfortunate that our visit to Innsbruck coincided with the only rainy day. The mountains surrounding the capital of the Tyrol were obscured by the mist and the clouds, so much of their grandeur was lost. Nevertheless this ancient city contains many fine buildings, and its old part with the golden-roofed house, its traditional shops, and the roccoco house where Mozart once lived was especially enjoyable. Some of us visited the Royal Hapsburg palace, and passed through its great halls to its church, distinguished for its silver altar and its medieval statues, one of which is the original of the many pictures of our own King Arthur. All this splendour more than compensated for the mist, wind and rain.

The return journey enabled us to spend a few hours in Munich, before joining the 'Tauern Express' which took us to Ostend. A rapid crossing to Dover and a thrilling taxi dash across London

brought us back to Manchester on the evening of January 8th, tired but content.

We all wish to thank Dr. Jecny for his patience and energy which made our holiday possible.

G. A. M. WOOD, 6 iii a.

Transactions of the Geography Department

In recent years the Geography Department has pursued studies of Physical Geography, whenever possible, in the field. Not only are these field excursions extremely valuable in elucidating textbook principles, but they also prove to be a most enjoyable form of studying.

Among the company of bowler-hatted business men waiting for the nine a.m. London train on Central Station on Thursday morning, February 14th, stood a group of uncouthly-attired youths casually tossing menacing hammers from one hand to the other. General opinion would have been justified in assuming this party to be some demolition squad, but it was in fact members of the Geographical Department bound for Edale and Castleton under the leadership of Mr. Watts.

We left Edale Station to be greeted by pure chill Derbyshire air, and rays of clear sunlight shafting down from a much-broken sky. As we made general observations of the Edale valley, the glowing sun warmed our task, and the motion that this was better than sitting huddled together in the chill confines of Room 16 studying tales of distant Patagonia, was carried unanimously.

"Who is interested in Patagonia anyway?" enquired one enthusiastic member of the First Year VIth. The reply that it may be of some consequence to the Patagonians came from beneath the brightly coloured bobble-cap of A. I. A. Smith.

However our views were rapidly to change as an ominous low cloud came swirling down, engulfing us in seething sheets of snow. Room 16 now appeared as a far-off haven of warmth and shelter where one listened eagerly to intriguing tales of interesting distant lands, like Patagonia.

Once through Mam Nick, where excellent examples of a syncline and a fault are exposed, the storm abated, and with boosted morale we rapidly excavated a hollow of considerable dimensions in search of specimens of fluorspar and galena. Our tracks then lay for Windy Knoll Cave which contains a deposit of oil residue known as elaterite. Rumour has it that Mr. Watts had remained above the cave with visions of no more geography periods to take. However, he appeared genuinely relieved when we all emerged from the inky hole.

Our next halt was at the summit of the Winnats, a limestone gorge of impressive dimensions. Several

inconclusive hypotheses have been forwarded to explain its existence. Highly improbable theories were then forthcoming from the First Year Sixth not unconnected with some past 'dirty, great, whacking big river,' while the elite members of the Third and Fourth Year said they abhorred the lack of geomorphological concept shown by the less experienced, and with airs of wisdom withdrew aloof, muttering about how frequent in fact was the awkward occurrence of inexplicable phenomena, and philosophically decried the impetuosity of youth.

The itinerary then led us to Treak Cliff which is one of the finest fossiliferous localities in the country, or rather was, for after two hours' steady onslaught, its value must have depreciated alarmingly. Everyone soon became adept in the art of hammering, and also equally adroit in avoiding large lumps of rock dislodged by our fellow-student Smith, who was making rapid inroads into the Derbyshire Hills above our heads. The unfortunate exception was M. S. Unsworth, who received a blow on the head from a descending portion of Treak Cliff, leaving him little interested in the proceedings for the next five minutes. Concern was also expressed for K. Corcoran, whose meat pie was apparently disagreeing with him, for unintelligible moans were heard proceeding from his direction. However, above the clattering of assiduously wielded hammers, the fact that he was singing a popular song could be ascertained, if such a conclusion be not slavish flattery. Between rhythmic blows, words came drifting down the hillside, *Don't Knock the Rock*.

Thanks mainly to conscientious work by D. K. Swindells and D. W. Whitehead, a pile of specimens was soon assembled. A. F. Bennett was particularly favoured in recovering several large specimens in perfect preservation. At this stage the opinions of the self-styled palaeontological experts of the Third and Fourth Year Sixth were called in. All two of them, though their sagacious head-nodding would have done credit to an Animal, Vegetable or Mineral panel, had aspersions cast on their integrity because of the complexity of the names suggested and also their sharply conflicting views.

"This is a *Palaeosmia murchisoni*," J. Davis confidently asserted.

"No, it isn't, it's a *Dibunophyllum bourtonense*," was the equally confident opinion of A. F. Pitty.

Sceptically Corcoran replied that if anyone wanted his opinion it was a rhubarbites bullerobus, much to the annoyance of the 'experts.'

The Speedwell Beach Bed was the next interesting feature, and here, much to general relief, the head and shaft of Mrs. Smith's coal hammer parted company. From here we visited the remains of an ancient volcano which was, it was scholastically

observed, "not doing much at it these days." However, definite traces of its former activity were seen in a lava flow of very dark blue dolerite, one outcrop of which exhibited hexagonal contraction due to cooling, like the famous pillars of the Giant's Causeway. Once again Smith had a theory, which proved more popular, attributing the occurrence of this symmetrical column to careful hammering on the part of the Manchester Geological Society.

We then descended Cave Dale where the palaeontology experts were much excited by a fossil discovery.

"We've found a *Lithostroton arachnoideum*," they announced, "but can't get it out of the rock."

Smith, returning from inspecting Peveril Castle, once more sceptical about the authenticity of the identifications, remarked drily that he had found a castle, but couldn't get it out of the rock either.

At Hope Station, our next and final halt, we sank wearily into the seats of the 5-11 p.m. train which took us to Manchester. Then we went our several ways to muse contentedly beside a welcome fire about intriguing subjects of the day's observations, and to be haunted through the night by fleeting visions of shoals of *Productus tissingtonensis*.

A. F. PITTY, 6 iii a.

Chacun a Son Gout

Meaning and the Oak Leaf; a study in the uses of illiteracy in the Indian Army of 1896; being the diaries of Brigadier the Hon. Percy FitzDarcy Ffoulkes. Cavendish and Cecil. 35/6d., pp. xxxiv 317, Demy. 8vo.

AN ACQUAINTANCE FROM QUETTA

Many old Indian Army officers will remember with pleasure Brigadier FitzDarcy Ffoulkes. Now an octogenarian resident in Surrey, he has published his reminiscences of many active years in India.

The book is written in a vigorous, racy style with a varied and picturesque vocabulary. No objection can be made to the odd sentence in Hindustani—FitzDarcy Ffoulkes was fluent in that language—for it adds colour to what he describes. Typical of his many anecdotes is the one about the excited Punjabi Jemadar who calls the author from the mess at Poona to say, "Sahib, come quickly . . . the Regimental Sergeant-Major Sahib has fallen in the horse trough." Light-hearted stories like these mask a deep and intimate knowledge of the psychology of the Indian soldier.

Extracts from the diaries like, "Oct. 5. Rose at 11. Inspected guard. Am sure they all have flat feet. Curry for luncheon again," shed interesting light on the way of life followed by these gallant English

gentlemen, so far from home and from their relatives. In his introduction, the Earl of Crabshot says, "This is a book . . . all lovers of India will want to treasure . . . rich as it is in the pulsing vigour of an age . . . gone, alas, for ever." Your reviewer can only endorse this opinion, and pronounce *Meaning and the Oak Leaf* to be a 'must' for every Major, and an essential for every regimental library.

Beautifully bound in durable, lemon-coloured linson, the book is a delight to the eye, a joy to read, and a gem to be stored away in the hearts of its readers.

The Poona Literary Supplement

A BORE FROM BOMBAY

It is sometimes supposed that the memoirs and jottings of colonial generals make good reading. This supposition is quite untrue.

Brigadier FitzDarcy Ffoulkes's book *Meaning and the Oak Leaf* is entirely void of value for the scholar, the historian, or the general reader. FitzDarcy Ffoulkes's diary sheds no light on conditions in the Indian army of the 1890's. He was then an unimportant colonel, and never seems to have met the real characters of the period—General Hoffman, 'Andy' Bennet, or the Fabers. The reader searches in vain for acute observations, but reads instead such remarks as "After a time, I realised that all my servants were brown skinned." Even the anecdotes are trivial in the extreme. No one can be amused by the *canard* about the Jemadar at Poona—"Sahib, come quickly . . . the Regimental Sergeant-Major Sahib has fallen in the horse trough", but the inane stupidities may provoke a smile.

FitzDarcy Ffoulkes's literary style, if such it may be called, is insufferable. Long residence in India has caused him to include extensive passages of Hindustani, and no translation has been provided. Moreover, his English varies from enormous paragraphs of half-digested rhetoric, to extreme examples of unoriginal dullness—"Oct. 5. Rose at 11. Inspected guard. Am sure they all have flat feet. Curry for luncheon again." The whole book is, in fact, a tissue of twaddle.

The publishers have produced it on cheap paper; it is unattractively printed, and is bound in a particularly vile shade of cloth-substitute.

The final verdict can only be that the book is ill-considered, ill-printed, ill-presented and ill-bound.

The Bangalore Review

J. E. O. SCREEN and G. A. M. WOOD, 6 iii a.

The Friend's Curse

My friend George and I worked in the same office; we had done so since leaving school some ten years ago. I found the work not too exacting and my duties, which brought me into contact with people in all walks of life, were pleasant.

The office, typical of many in London, stood facing one of the many parks, situated in a gracious neighbourhood noted for its Georgian architecture. Parked cars lined the quiet street below. This was a secluded quarter of London and often the only sound which could be heard would be the distant subdued roar of the city.

Frequently it has been said and written that people whose temperaments are akin are unlikely to achieve any degree of close friendship. However, George and I must have been the exception which proved the rule. As children we had spent long hours in each other's company, enjoying the same pursuits and sharing a mutual happiness. This friendship did not vary throughout our later school-days and eventually we prepared to enter the same profession. Alike as we were in outlook and mental capacity, we were unlike physically, Frank being short and stocky, and myself being tall and lean. At the age of eighteen, soon after leaving school, Frank was forced to leave the position which he had taken in the office, by virtue of his National Service. I, however, was rejected from military service as I had contracted that dread scourge, flat feet, a fact which did not exactly desolate me with grief.

During George's absence, serving in Malaya, my erstwhile humble position in the firm, improved, and upon George's return, I was a junior executive of no mean importance. I cannot convey with my limited vocabulary how George had changed; his previously open, warm nature was gone. He was sullen, though never insultingly so, and often subject to fits of despondency and general malaise. Even the female typists, who were usually attracted to him and to other men, purely physically, noticed that the old zest for living had gone. I was the only person in whom he would confide to any great extent. His engagement to my sister, if not abruptly fractured, was gradually severed, an occurrence which did not increase his popularity with my parents. Often I wondered if in any way he resented my improved position in the firm; but this could not be so, for his work did not deteriorate and he rose in a very short space to a position similar to mine. Though his work caused no complaint, it no longer held any interest for him and his restlessness increased. Frequently I attempted to find out exactly what was preying on his mind, as something assuredly was, for he would often be observed staring into the infinite, not a

nerve moving. Another factor which convinced me that some dark secret weighed on his mind was the way in which he spoke to me. Although our interests remained mutual, his conversations were distant and without that flame of interest which had previously enlivened his outlook. These fits of melancholy were frequently disturbing and embarrassing, one poignant affair remains in my memory.

Together with two young ladies of our acquaintance, we were present at a concert in the Royal Albert Hall. The programme remains in my memory as it contained two of my favourite works, both of a nostalgic nature. The first of these works which was played was Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. The enthusiasm aroused by its performance even carried to George whose eyes glowed with pleasure and appreciation. The penultimate work was Butterworth's setting of A. E. Housman's *Shropshire Lad*. This deals in part with the return in spirit form of a soldier to his home, after death, and of a marriage which was never to materialise. George was subdued throughout this work, his head was bowed. Although I was more interested in my female companion, I observed that there were tears in his eyes. When the emotional climax of "Is my team still ploughing?" was reached, George was so overcome that he buried his face in his hands and wept, much to the consternation of his partner. This conflict in his mind, was, I felt, connected with some experience of his in the army, though I knew not what.

Having decided that I was in a position to marry comfortably, I became engaged to the most recent and most lasting object of my affections. The evening after I had announced my fate to the world, an impromptu celebration kept me awake until well after midnight. About three hours later, I awoke and arose for a drink of water. I was about to go downstairs when in the street below my parents' house I heard footsteps. Overcome with curiosity I looked out of the window and saw George. Under the street-lamps his face was horrible; he was haggard and drawn, his head twitching involuntarily. He saw my startled face at the window and beckoned to me. Drawing my dressing-gown about me, I went downstairs, feeling not a little displeased, being in no mood for early morning capers. I opened the door and called him to come in. He lurched unsteadily up the path. His walk was not drunken, but would have appeared to be that of a man undergoing a form of brain-storm. Without speaking, he stopped some two paces from the door, gave a strangled cry, flung an arm over his face, threw a scrap of paper in my direction and fled. Puzzled, to say the least, I picked up the paper and placed it in my pocket. I would have read it there and then had it not been for the absence of light and a desire to get back to sleep.

The morning sun flooded the office. Except for the clatter of a solitary typewriter the outer office was silent. When George did not appear to work at his usual hour, I was not surprised, surmising that he was suffering from a nervous breakdown. Making a mental note to ring George's parents later in the day, I resumed my work.

My eventual phone-call to George's mother was the most dreadful experience of my young life. Having gaily enquired as to his health, I was informed quietly that George was dead. He had committed suicide. The reason for George's death became clear to me when a young officer of George's regiment, who attended the funeral, lifted a corner of the veil over George's life, which I had been unable to penetrate.

Whilst his regiment had been stationed in Malaya, George had been awarded the sickening duty of being the officer in charge of a firing-squad, which was to execute a local terrorist of known brutality. The impossible happened, the firing-squad riddled the terrorist's body but failed to kill him outright. To George fell the soul-destroying task of dispatching the wretched creature from his agony, by a shot from his pistol. As George left the prison, a wild ragged figure rushed up to him and uttered a wild, fearful curse, which can be roughly translated as the 'Friend's Curse.' This curse, which terrifies the natives in that district, is reputed to bring disaster on the person concerned and all connected with him, including their issue. The person concerned could only remove the curse, it was said, if he died by his own hand.

For two years that had played on George's mind, but it was not until I examined the scrap of paper which George had dropped that dreadful evening, that the ghastly reason why he had taken his life was revealed to me. It was the announcement in the evening paper of my engagement.

D. D. A. LAMB, 6M.L.

The Pool

The pool was not a very big one, yet I can still see it in my thoughts, and remember every detail, every happening connected with it. As I sit on the verandah looking out on to a broad, open plain with few trees and plants, the cool refreshing memory of it still haunts me.

It was my friend Paul who found it. Together we had explored its surroundings and after a long search we suddenly found ourselves in a small, dark glade which surrounded a dark patch of water. On one side of the pool were many reeds, and further up the bank, ferns, which resembled a half-moon in their appearance. These ferns seemed so sad and withering to me. Many times I went

there in times of trouble and in times of sadness, because the sight of the pool alone gave me fresh hope and courage for the future. Perhaps I was sentimental about it, but that pool to me was what the locks of hair were to Samson. Without it and its memory I felt sad and lonely, small and defenceless.

The pool was at its best in the early hours of the morning when everything was just awakening from a refreshing sleep. To see the birds, with their summer plumage, singing in joy of the morning, to see the plants, in all their magnificence and splendour, was superb; but to see the pool, shimmering in the half-light, rippling softly from bank to bank, was the zenith of nature's many gifts. For hours I would stay there, alone and tired out, just to see the pool and its surroundings, and although I was tired physically, my mind used to go round in a stupor.

One day I decided to share my find, for my friend who had discovered my haven of rest had been killed fighting in the Far East. With another companion, my fiancée, I set off along the usual path, past the rambling old oaks, through the wood of beeches and pines, and then under the waterfall and through to the pool. For one horrifying moment I thought it had gone, but my fears were soon dashed when I saw my companion of former days and nights. I looked at my friend's face and asked, "Like it?" "Yes, of course."

But she was not as captivated as I, not as surprised or as jealous, possibly because she was a woman, I thought. Slowly I turned, rather disappointed and rather puzzled, and looked again at the pool. Memories of former days swept through my mind. There was the rock where Paul and I had sat and talked of the far-distant future. He went straight into the army on the outbreak of war, whereas I stood back, waiting to see what would happen. It was from this rock also that I had caught an old pike, the only fish in the pool, and had thrown it back in sheer pity. Slowly we walked back from the pool and soon came out into the brilliant sunshine.

Two weeks later I volunteered for the new paratroop regiment and in six months I found I was down on the list for the jump over Arnhem. After I had landed and got out of my parachute, I tended our sergeant who had been shot in the legs as we had been floating down. Then I noticed he was staring at me in an odd way. "What's the matter?" I asked.

"Nothing. Only as you were floating down you kept saying, 'Like it? Like it?' half-a-dozen times at least. Was it something of which you had a high opinion, or what?"

Slowly as I wrapped the bandages round his wounded legs, I surveyed the Dutch landscape, smiled and thought of the lines of Keats' poem, 'Was it a vision or a waking dream?'
But now it is gone, do I wake or sleep?

M. BILLCLIFF, 5Y.

Clouds on the Horizon

The bartender slid another glass of whisky down the counter. Connors drank it in one gulp and nodded for his glass to be refilled. He glanced through the window out across the prairie, watching the noiseless clouds drift unperturbably across the horizon. He hoped this would cool his nerves, but no, it was no use, he was jittery all over.

Out of the corner of his eye he could see a bunch of cowboys at the far end of the saloon. They were watching him with uneasy eyes. All of them, he knew, would give a right arm to help him in anything, but this was something he had to face alone. The clock on the wall showed eleven. For two hours now he had been waiting, tingling with excitement and worry.

But as a man who had been town marshal for three action-packed years, he knew better than to show it.

The easy clouds still went by. Wouldn't something happen soon? Surely it couldn't go on for ever.

He was waiting for a man to come through the swing doors behind him. His hand wandered to his holster and caressed his six-shooter.

It was his habit to shoot away his troubles, but this was the one occasion he wouldn't be able to. He had to wait and take what was coming. The clock showed 11-55. It couldn't be long now, surely.

Tired of seeing him stare out of the window and filling his glass, the bartender slid the bottle along to him.

"On the house, Connors. The boys and me know how you feel."

Connors filled his glass and was just about to drink when he heard a solemn, steady footstep on the board-walk. A dark form appeared behind the swing doors. A face looked around the saloon with flashing eyes. Cold sweat began to trickle down Connors' brow. "Ah, there you are, Connors," he said, "congratulations. You're the father of a big bouncing boy."

The colour returned to Connors' face, and talk in the bar resumed. Connors drank his whisky and glanced out of the window. The clouds had disappeared and the big red sun spread its radiant glow across the world.

P. J. REANEY, 4A.

The Courier

Who rideth through the driving rain,
With stirrups pressed to horse's side,
His body taut, as if in pain;
He bears the news the King has died.

He splashes through the soaking mire,
While horse's hooves on cobbles pound,
The mud festoons his red attire,
But on he rides; not looking round.

The track winds slowly to the town,
His breathless ride is nearly o'er;
He reads the scroll with solemn frown,
Then onward goes to cross the moor.

D. J. HIGGINSON, 4A.

Manchester

The Manchester of today—what an amazing city! Surely never before has a boom town been so very, very successful. From a number of obscure events thrown together by fate at the beginning of the nineteenth century; lo! born out of the womb of the black moor is a veritable hive of industry. Thousands and millions of humans living, dying, struggling, rushing, laughing, crying, shrieking, sobbing, scheming, and above all, working. Working endlessly, producing endless bags and bales and binds of cotton. Hurrying home. Hurrying, scurrying, managing, scrubbing, to the endless hum of machines; endless, endless—where once a bird, a tiny bird, vibrating, quivering with infinitesimal life was the only sharp movement in a slow, labouring countryside. The wonderment of this transition!—But no one must rest!—we must expand!—The processes of evolution are irrepensible, merciless; and so a fungus grows round this germ, this centre, and disguises itself as suburbia.

Beginning as a refuge for those worn out and frustrated by lives of pointless industry, it grows. It grows, and oozes round sleepy villages, suffocates them and their independence; their life-blood is cut off, and they die. The hordes gradually spill out from their hives of industry, and each becomes a natty, pseudo-lord over a natty little manor of ten square feet. Housing is run off by the yard, and dealt with as a commodity, as curtaining or bedding. Two or three individual houses are houses; they have their individuality, their lives, but housing consists of countless soulless square boxes on both sides of countless pointless roads. It is doled out to people according to how much money they have, or how greedy they are, and they live in it.

Take these, the hive and the refuge, together, and you have Manchester. Created as if by wizardry from almost nothing, we have this vast, seething city, oozing all over the sane, orderly life of independence that exists in villages, and crushing it quietly to death. Planted, stuck by some ungentle god, it seems, like some strange plant, throbbing with a weird vindictive life of its own. Vast, sprawling, straggling off at the ends to some stumpy bits of housing on a feeble track, that seems to give up after leaving the shelter of the town. Yet the whole thing is so great, so powerful, so overwhelming; it mesmerises thousands of people into doing the same meaningless little tasks day after day. Progress?—or Black Magic?

M. J. LYNCH, 3A.

Out of the House of Bondage

Throughout the centuries youth has struggled to attain the same rights as adults, from the time when the Romans oppressed their youth to the time when they are very near to equality with adults—that is our time. The Roman child was under the rule of an often harsh father, who literally had the power of life and death over his children. The schoolmasters were no better apparently, for we are told that Roman gentlemen who lived in houses adjoining schools were obliged to send servants early in the morning to ask the master to keep the boys that he was beating more quiet!

Youth's lot worsened in the Dark and Middle Ages when they were either held in strict discipline as squires to a knight, or reduced to slavery in serfdom. However, the position had improved very much by the end of the 16th century and the youth of agricultural Britain were close to winning the battle for equality.

But, by the time of the Industrial Revolution, youth was almost on a par with adults, but the adults themselves were oppressed by money-grubbing employers. Then the well-meaning Lord Shaftesbury sought to protect young persons by introducing the minority status, i.e. different rights for those under 21.

This well-meaning action has, however, now outlived its purpose. Adults themselves are now not oppressed by harsh employers and the time is now ripe to liberate youth from the shackles of the minority status.

There are many of these shackles. Probably the chief one is that we cannot vote, and thus have no voice in Parliament. That is not democracy. I suggest that the age for acquiring majority rights should be twelve, thus giving teenagers the responsibility that they are lost without.

We constantly hear from the Press of the shocking crimes and vandalism that have been committed by teenagers. This, I think, may frighten some people from wishing to allow teenagers into the community fully. But it is really more likely that if these rebels against society were given all the responsibility they crave, they would show gratitude by behaving like the citizens that they would have been made. Wouldn't that be worth it?

Naturally if youth had equality with adults there would be new problems to surmount. The school system would have to be revised somewhat—based on the University way of teaching. I suggest that there should be four lectures for each form in the morning, with free study periods in the afternoon in specially constructed study-libraries. Homework would be encouraged, but not be compulsory. Boys and girls, it must be remembered would now be able to argue with the lecturers and state their views. But, I maintain, any persons stolidly refusing to work should be tried by jury (and the jury should include one or two boys and girls) and if convicted sent to a reformatory centre. These reformatory centres would be a half-way stage between the present schools and the Borstal schools. Thus, if boys and girls did not use their rights, they would lose them.

So, now, let us have that new responsibility and we will repay you by behaving like the free citizens we would then be!

D. ROBINSON, 3A.

Telepathy

The man was sitting by his fire in the study; he was tired after a long day's work and he was looking forward to a quiet evening with his paper.

He liked this room. It was the only room in the house, he thought, in which one could really be comfortable. All the others were either vast lofty vaults, which no fire could warm, or draughty so that the smoke of the fire was blown into the face of the person warming himself.

He picked up his paper and began to read. Then a headline struck his eye. It was "Serving Maid Killed In Old House."

It appeared that a serving maid had been killed while an old lady had been upstairs. She had heard the screams, but had been too scared to do anything.

"Dashed rum!" he thought, "supposing it had been me—" Then he heard the call, shrill and high, it rang through the house with a compelling urgency which made him realise the necessity for action. He got up, left the fire and his paper, and went down the staircase.

He came to the hall. The cries were louder now. Then on the hall table he saw a squat black object. He did not hesitate.

He picked it up and said, "Central 2424."

I. V. SMITH, 3B.

Snobbishness

Are doctors' lives so full of joy?
When mother brings her little boy,
To say that John Smith hit him hard
On certain parts that were not barred—
To say that he is so angelic,
And that John Smith, the only relic
Of poverty, and bad upbringing
Should never, certainly, be mingling
With decent children, from decent homes
When he himself is skin and bones.

Then, John Smith enters with his mother,
Who tells the doctor that another
Hit her son and broke his nose,
And that the other, with two more foes
Had chased him and had thrown some stones,
Until her John ached to the bones—
And that the other was in there last;
And fearful glances on them had cast.

J. S. H. MORTIMER, 2A.

The Twelve-Thirty

I was walking along the Sherbourne Road, the long wide road that winds like a snake through the town, when I heard a ghostly screech coming from the railway line which passes under the road by means of a wide metal bridge. I immediately quickened my pace, and arrived at the middle of the bridge. By this time I concluded that an engine had sounded its horn as it sped under the bridge.

I endeavoured to look over the top of the bridge, but being only a small individual, had to jump to look over. As I jumped, my cap left my head and fell down onto the railway lines below.

"This'll delay me posting my letter," I thought. I went to the end of the bridge, and managed to scale the side, with much difficulty, for the metal was hot under the constant scorching rays of the sun. I dropped down onto the grass embankment and descended. I saw my cap lying between two tracks of rails. It seemed to sit there arrogantly and defiantly, as if to say, "Come and get me if you can."

I traversed two sets of rails and picked up my cap off the gravel. I brushed it, and looked forward. What I saw then made me quake with fear! Two trains were advancing towards me, one on either

track at my side! I had no time to run away across the lines, so I fell down on the ground, and hoped for the best, since my confused brain reckoned that no-one could stand between two trains on adjacent tracks.

I looked forward momentarily, and glimpsed the trains; they were nearly on top of me! For a moment I panicked, but the decision about whether to run away or stay was made for me—for I now saw a blur of many wheels speeding past! It was only a glimpse, but I could see the purple and dull silver, intermingled with black shadows.

The noise was deafening; the rumbling and clattering seemed to be inside my head, for it was so loud.

I began to sweat.

The rumbling seemed to go louder, louder and louder!

I could feel my hands wet with sweat.

Still I could hear the clattering and banging of the wheels, increasing in their volume.

I could feel the sweat from my forehead streaming down my face. I imagined a regiment of drums beating a tattoo as they walked over me! I could stand it no longer! I was just about to shout when the noise of the wheels stopped suddenly. All was quiet! I relaxed my muscles. After about a minute I picked my cap and myself up and climbed up onto the road above. The road still retained its former quietness, and I carried on my interrupted journey to the post-box.

G. H. MARSDEN, 2A.

Wednesday

On every wet games afternoon,
Mr. Bird, our Head,
Says those who do not play Lacrosse,
Must go a run instead.
We all turn up at 2 p.m.,
Some think it quite a lark.
As off we go down Springbridge Road,
To Alexandra Park.
We are supposed to keep to paths,
But they are full of ruts,
And when no one is looking on,
We try to take short cuts.

But Mr. Bird's expecting this,
And hiding near a tree,
A prefect or a master, has
Been posted so that we
Have got to run the whole two miles.
We don't care if we lose,
Our knees are chapped, our feet are sore,
Through running in gym shoes.
My parents say it does me good,
I don't think they are wise.
I think that folks make too much fuss,
About this exercise.

K. J. COLLINS, 2B.

Spring Day

One day in spring I sat in my 'hide' watching a pair of birds look after their eggs. About five o'clock in the morning the female, throned in the colourful splendour of a starling on a sunny day, set off looking for food. The female, also a magnificent bird, sat watching him till he was out of sight. Then she arose, arranged the colourful eggs to her liking, and sat down again. The nest was situated in a large hawthorn bush and so afforded great protection.

The female bird, whilst waiting for her mate, preened her feathers. When the male arrived about a quarter of an hour later he brought an assortment of spiders, caterpillars, slugs, flies and worms. The female, being a very hungry bird, soon ate them all and the poor father had to go for more.

At about nine o'clock I could hear a slight tapping noise come from the rather untidy nest. The male, who was sitting on the nest at the time, stood up to find the cause of the disturbance. When he stood up I could see that one of the eggs was cracking. Just at that time the female came back to take her turn at sitting on the nest. The male was kept busy all the time fetching food for the family.

At twelve forty-five the last of the eggs had hatched. The male now, instead of just flying for food, walked proudly about on the field. He and the female held their heads on high so as to display their beautiful colours. Both the male and the female were kept busy finding food for their children. At five the two birds stopped getting food and started singing. At nine at night all the other birds went to their nests to sleep and so did our starlings.

R. HUGHES, 1A.

The Blind Man's Memories

How sadly now do I recall
The hours that I have spent
Asleep beneath the willow trees
So big, so broad, so bent.
The frogs were croaking in the marsh,
The waterhen swam by,
The lark came fluttering to her nest,
Then soared into the sky.

How oft do they come back to me
Those years that were so gay.
The things I saw were wonderful
And filled each happy day:
The flowers that in the meadow bloomed,
The cottage down the lane.
Would I could see those lovely things
I ne'er shall see again.

G. R. COLLINS, 1A.

Campanology

The happiest experience during my Christmas holidays was when I assisted in ringing in the New Year. I was aroused from my bed and enjoyed the walk to the church with my father and brother through the dark, frosty, clear night. Arriving there shortly before midnight we climbed the dark, narrow, spiral steps to the belfry where the other ringers were already assembled. A few seconds before midnight we each took hold of our bellropes ready to welcome the New Year with a burst of melody. The bells pealed out loud and clear through the frosty night and could be heard for miles around.

Campanology—to give it its correct title—is the art and practice of bellringing and is a delightful hobby for any boy (or girl) to follow. Most churches possessing a peal of bells would welcome new-comers if they apply to the vicar or chief ringer. I have recently taken it up following in the footsteps of my father and grandfather.

In most churches in the British Isles, the rope runs over the rim of a wheel attached to the bell. When the bell is hanging mouth downwards and the ringer pulls the rope he can only make the bell swing a little way, but by gradually increasing the swing at each successive pull he makes it swing backwards and forwards like a pendulum, through an ever-increasing arc the bell finishes its swing

upside down; it is then pulled back the other way, swinging round till it is upside down again. The basic skill of bellringing is to be able to judge the exact pull on the rope that will make the bell stop almost of its own accord upside down, so that only the lightest pull will bring it back to start swinging the other way. Modern bells are so well hung that ringers can ring continuously for any length of time from three to nine hours without tiring themselves unduly, or risking weak hearts or strained muscles.

Change ringing, which was introduced in the 17th century, is based on permutations, so that at our church, where we have six bells, 720 changes can be produced without ever repeating. (This means that the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 can be changed 720 different ways, usually the first change is 2, 1, 4, 3, 6, 5). If it were possible to ring all the changes on twelve bells—479,001,600—it would take thirty-six years to complete. There are many different methods of ringing these changes, one of the oldest and most musical being Stedman, named after Fabian Stedman, a leading figure in the art of change-ringing in the 17th century.

In whatever way bells are rung they are still one of the greatest symbols of jubilation but they never sound so beautiful as they do when welcoming in a New Year.

A. J. HOUGH, 1B.

The Wodge's Wedding

'Twas Christmas Day
In the middle of May,
The snow was falling thick,
When out of a snowdrift, there then appeared
A Wodge by the name of Hic.

To himself he said,
"Now I must be wed,
So no longer must I tarry.
For it is the Plup by the name of Hup
That I am going to marry."

Across the snow
He then did go
With a leap and a bound and a hop.
Then at the church, with a scrodulus lurch
He came to a scrodulus stop.

To the Vicar he said,
"I wish to be wed
To a Plup whose father's a Sprent."
So down the aisle, with a shattering smile
The happy couple went,

Then to his dismay
 He discovered that day
 As down the aisle he'd sped
 In his hurry and bustle and scuffle and hustle,
 He'd married the Vicar instead.

I. J. MARSLAND, 1C.

The Story of the School

A SECOND CHAPTER

When I first entered what was then called The Hulme Grammar School in 1896, it was practically in the fields. From the railway bridge at Chorlton to Hart Road in Fallowfield there were only two or three houses. Wilbraham Road was a private road and had four rows of stumps across it, one near Chorlton railway bridge, one near Withington Road, another near Princess Road, and the last near Hart Road.

The School consisted of only one building and there were, I think, about 200 boys. I doubt if any class ever had more than twenty boys in it. There were three sections which were called Latin, Modern and Science.

The Headmaster, Dr. Hall, was an ascetic figure and rather strict, but even tempered and fair. He taught Latin and a little Scripture. We often saw him on the School field rapt in deep thought and occasionally picking up small pieces of paper with a spiked stick.

Before Mr. Barber came as Secretary, there was Mr. Sykes who lurked in a small office on the right-hand side of the landing at the entrance. He was rather a crusty and formidable figure. When Mr. Barber came to take his place, the older boys, of whom I was then one, all thought him rather young for the job.

Work stopped at 12 noon when most of us raced home and back as quickly as we could so as to get in some practice at the game we specially enjoyed. It was possible to have lunch down in the basement at the back but by far the greater number of boys went home for it. Afternoon school went on from two to four.

On one afternoon each week there were swimming classes at the Leaf Street Baths and very soon after four p.m. a long and scattered line of boys could be seen streaking out of the school across Alexandra Park to the gates in Alexandra Road South, where they caught the horse bus to Leaf Street. Our instructor was a huge man called Sterne, and he certainly could swim. There were no boys who could not swim after a term or two of his instruction.

In those days we used to play soccer, lacrosse and cricket, but not rugby. We usually played home and away against seven or eight other schools at both cricket and soccer, among them St. Bede's College, Bury Grammar School and Stand Grammar School. St. Bede's generally beat us at both, but we were pretty equally matched with most of the others.

There was no acting or dramatic society at the school in my time. I don't know why, but perhaps it was considered frivolous in those days.

All our interests were local then amongst our special group of friends, where we also found much of our entertainment, not of very high quality perhaps but much enjoyed by us none the less. A slower, more leisurely world; but a safer, freer one.

Is the world we have today better than that? I sometimes wonder.

C. LISTER.

Old Hulmeians Notes and News

A. H. C. Ratliff has been appointed Lecturer in Orthopaedic Surgery to the University of Manchester.

In the New Year's Honours C. N. Mason was awarded the C.B.E.

We congratulate R. Mark on his appointment as Chief Constable of Leicester. Mingled with our delight in this early and unusual distinction is regret for the fact that it has entailed the premature departure from the school of one of its most promising members, his son C. R. L. Mark, who worthily upheld the family tradition for versatility combined with excellence.

J. N. Hopwood (Brasenose College, Oxford) was awarded a Second Class Honours degree in the Final Honours School of Jurisprudence in the Summer. He has since been successful in the December Bar Final Examination and was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn on February 5th.

A. Godson, who was reported in our last issue as playing Rugby for Lancashire, is now playing in distinguished company for the Army.

Many readers will be interested to know that the Hulme tradition for dramatic productions is being maintained by Mr. O. A. Rayfield (*Caesar and Cleopatra*) at Berkhamstead, Mr. E. Winter (*The School for Scandal*) at Mill Hill, Mr. G. M. Thornton (*Oliver Twist*) at the Lower School of John Lyon, Harrow. Mr. O. A. Rayfield has recently been appointed Senior Modern Language Master at Berkhamstead, where he has been teaching ever since he left us. Mr. E. Winter—as we record elsewhere—has got married.

In a Lacrosse match between Cambridge University and Manchester University in which the former won the English Universities Lacrosse championship, the goal scorers included C. S. Smith and A. Dyson for Cambridge, P. Marlton, C. G. McDiarmid and G. Macdonald for Manchester.

In the North v. South Lacrosse match C. A. Smith and F. M. McClinton (Old Hulmeians) were selected to play for the North and C. S. Smith (Cambridge University) for the South.

D. E. Swarbrick has been presented with the F. W. Thomas Cup and silver medal for the most successful student in process engraving at Manchester College of Technology.

R. Bowden, who on leaving school served as an officer in the Military Police and then succeeded H. Baker as a Stage Manager at the Arts Theatre, London, is now seeking further experience by travelling by car to India, by a very entertaining, if somewhat hazardous route.

In the March issue a year ago, we began hopefully what we intended should be a series of reminiscences of their schooldays by Old Hulmeians. We are very grateful to Mr. C. Lister for so kindly contributing his observations to enable us to continue the chronicle in the pages immediately preceding these notes.

Births, Marriages and Death

BIRTHS

MAYER.—On November 28, to Barbara (*née* Mercer) and Philip, a daughter.

PEAT.—On December 4, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Peat (Staff), a daughter.

RATLIFF.—On January 13, to Jean (*née* Harrison) and Tony, a son.

STRADLING.—On January 18, to Vera and Frank Stradling, a daughter.

ANDREW.—On January 26, to Winifred Hannah (*née* Colclough), wife of Harold Andrew, a son.

MAGUIRE.—On January 26, to Valerie Mary (*née* Fox) and Brian Arthur Maguire, a son.

MCCLINTON.—On February 9, to Barbara (*née* Horrocks) and Michael, a daughter.

MARRIAGES

ALLEN—DAMMEYER.—On November 5, Keith Grahame, eldest son of the late Mr. G. W. Allen and of Mrs. E. Allen, to Johanna Alida Wilhelmina, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Dammeyer.

EVANS—DHONAU.—On December 22, Peter Evans (Staff) to Audrey Constance Dhonau.

WINTER—WARWICK.—On December 29, Edward Winter (Ex-Staff) to Elizabeth Mary Warwick.

MCGUFFIE—HIGGINBOTTOM.—On March 2, Gordon William, only son of Mr. and Mrs. McGuffie, to Constance Florence, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Higginbottom.

THORNLEY—HIBBERT.—On March 2, David Ernest, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Thornley, to Kathleen, twin daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Hibbert.

DEATH

BATEMAN.—On January 24, in hospital, and of 37 Russell Road, Whalley Range, Rupert D., the dearly beloved husband of Susie Bateman.

Old Hulmeians Association

The Annual Dance held at Longford Hall on 25th January, 1957, proved once again to be a very happy occasion. Two hundred and sixteen people were present and the thanks and congratulations of the Association are due to H. A. Whatley, J. M. Gilliat, B. T. Plaskett and C. H. Nesbitt for their efforts on our behalf.

The Lacrosse Section, whose first team is still undefeated in League matches for two years, seem assured once again of the First Division championship and John Buckland must be congratulated on his captaincy during this period. Unfortunately, they were knocked out of the Senior Flags competition by their old rivals, the Old Mancunians, in the second round. The 'A' team has had a reasonably successful season and has qualified to appear in the final of the Junior Flags.

An extensive drainage scheme has been undertaken on the Memorial Ground in Kingsbrook Road by the Whalley Range Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club and already in this very wet season a pronounced improvement is noticeable. It should be pointed out that the O.H.A. is responsible by virtue of its Agreement with the Cricket Club for half the cost of this scheme.

The Rugby Section is having a successful season and the 1st XV have put up some very fine performances against strong sides. The long lease on their ground has now been completed and elsewhere in this magazine will be found an Appeal for donations to erect more permanent accommodation on the Rugby ground.

Our sympathies are due to the Motor Section on being confronted with a shortage of petrol so soon after their revival. Nevertheless, they arranged an excellent Dinner Dance in December which was well attended, and although their intended programme has had to be somewhat revised, there are still attractive dates throughout the year.

Our congratulations are also due to R. Mark on his appointment as Chief Constable of Leicester. His departure from Manchester has caused a vacancy in the General Committee which has been filled by W. W. Land. Our President, A. H. Allman, has been appointed General Manager of Williams Deacon's Bank Ltd. in Mosley Street, Manchester, and our congratulations are due to him. It is particularly pleasing that this promotion should have come about during his year of office.

N. A. Barber is to be congratulated on his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel.

The Annual Golf Tournament will again be held on Ascension Day, 30th May, 1957, organised by J. A. Barber, who doubtless will be giving notice of this event at a later date.

The Annual Cricket Match against the School is likely to be held on Wednesday, 3rd July, 1957, and the Secretary would be pleased to receive names of any Old Boys who would like to take part in this match.

It has been particularly pleasing to see younger Old Boys at the Dance and realise from the applications for the Dinner that they are taking an increasing interest in Association affairs. It is to be hoped that they will continue to make their presence felt and eventually share the responsibilities of running the many activities connected with the Association.

E. B.

Old Hulmeians Proposed Club House

Included in this edition of the School magazine will be found a photograph of the architect's impression of the proposed Club House. It will be generally known that an 84 years' lease has now been negotiated on the Rugby Ground in Brantingham Road and the General Committee feel that they can proceed with buildings of a more permanent type to be erected on the Ground. The main purpose of these buildings is to provide a Club House for the Association members as a whole; but, of course, it will be realised that the Rugby Section will benefit very greatly as it will be possible to include in these buildings adequate changing accommodation for all their teams.

Oliver Dennis has kindly contributed the plans at no expense to the Association and these plans have been approved not only by the General Committee but also by qualified builders and architects. Several quotations have been obtained and it now seems certain that an amount in the region of £5,000 will be needed to erect these buildings and furnish them properly.

The Committee is prepared to recommend that the Association place all available finances towards this project; but, even so, there remains a very substantial sum to be raised in addition. Several Old Boys have already been approached and have promised to lend their support and make donations varying from £100 downwards. It is now felt that the Appeal should be made as widely as possible and all who read these Notes are invited to send their donations to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. S. Whittingham, 63 Cecil Avenue, Sale, Cheshire.

Approaches are being made to various educational authorities for donations and the possibility of a loan from the Rugby Union is being considered. The ideal time to undertake this work would be during the forthcoming close season; but the Committee do not feel that they can see their way to give the order to go ahead until it would appear that adequate support is forthcoming. Please send your donations immediately.

Old Hulmeians Lacrosse

Once again the Section can report a successful season, though the N.E.L.A. Senior Flags, won last year, will not be retained. At the time of writing, only one First Team match has been lost, though, unfortunately this was in the second round of the Senior Flags, when we were narrowly beaten five goals to four, by the Old Mancunians, whom we defeated in the 1956 final of this competition. In the North of England League the First Team lead the First Division and are the only unbeaten side in the League. Only one point has been lost, when the team was held to a 6-6 draw by the Old Mancunians and the side has a good chance of retaining the First Division Championship.

The good results obtained this season have been largely due to the strength of the defence, all of whom have played consistently well, both individually and collectively. In only one match this season have more than six goals been conceded and this, in itself, is adequate proof of the effectiveness of the team's defence play. On attack the position has not been so happy and A. E. Marsland and J. S. Jackson, members of last year's side, have been sorely missed. The chief fault has been a lack

of combined penetration and in an endeavour to improve the strength of the side D. Watkins and D. A. Hilton, from the 'A' Team, have recently been introduced to the attack.

Eight members of the First Team were selected to play in the Lancashire County Trial and four players—F. M. McClinton, C. A. Smith, F. D. Bell and R. J. Winfield were in the Lancashire side, which drew 7—7 against Cheshire at Cale Green, on March 2nd. F. M. McClinton and C. A. Smith have also been chosen for the North of England team to meet the South in London, on March 16th.

The loss of the Senior Flags has been compensated to some extent by the 'A' Team's good showing in the N.E.L.A. Junior Flags. The side has now reached the final and will play Old Stopfordians on the 16th March. Some good victories have been registered in the earlier matches, notably against Stockport, who were defeated 11—6 in the 2nd round. The 'A' Team appear to be saving themselves for Flags matches, as all the recent league games have been lost. However, a good run earlier in the season has ensured that the side will finish well placed in the upper half of the Second Division. At the time of writing the team is lying fourth with four matches to play.

One of the reasons for the loss of recent league matches has been the reshuffle in attack due to the promotion of D. A. Hilton and D. Watkins to the First Team. Both the First and 'A' Teams have had to reorganise themselves to meet these changes, but once the settling down period has been passed more effective attack play can be expected.

On the 'A' Team N. C. Cuthbert has been playing exceptionally well at centre, whilst G. Arnold and R. Heywood together with veterans N. A. Barber and H. A. Whatley have been the core of a sound defence. The Section realises that the Junior Flags Final will be a most difficult match, but are hopeful that the 'A' Team will be able to secure the trophy for the second time in three seasons.

The Extra 'A' Team has had a most difficult season, owing to the low playing strength of the Section, but despite numerous heavy defeats has always played hard and endeavoured to give of its best. The side has been much weaker than for some years, but two good victories in recent matches should ensure escape from relegation to the Fourth Division. Under E. S. Thelwall's captaincy, D. Borland has played consistently well in goal, whilst the team and Section has been very glad to welcome back N. G. Bullivant after an absence of some years. In the Lancashire Junior Cup after a good win against Manchester G.S. in the First Round, the Extra 'A' team then met the School and were beaten easily by fifteen goals to six.

The Section were very pleased to note the appointment of R. Mark as Chief Constable of Leicester and the promotion of N. A. Barber to the rank of Lieut-Colonel in the Territorial Army.

The Section Annual Dance held on the 9th February at Whalley Range Club was a well attended and highly successful function.

London Lacrosse Clubs will be touring in the Manchester area this Easter and matches have been arranged against Kenton on Good Friday and Purley on Easter Saturday, April 20th. Both these games will be played on the School ground.

RESULTS

FIRST TEAM

1956				
Nov. 24	v. Offerton	H W	14—5	
Dec. 1	v. Old Waconians	A W	4—1	
Dec. 8	v. Cheadle	H W	8—4	
Dec. 15	v. Manchester Univ.	A W	6—3	
Dec. 29	v. Boardman & Eccles	H W	8—2	
1957				
Jan. 5	v. Old Mancunians	A D	6—6	
Jan. 12	v. South Manchester and Wythenshawe	H W	5—2	
Jan. 19	v. Old Mancunians	A L	4—5	
(2nd Round N.E.L.A. Senior Flags)				
Jan. 26	v. Urmston	A W	7—1	
Feb. 9	v. Offerton	A W	13—3	
Feb. 16	v. Mellor	H W	7—2	

'A' TEAM

1956				
Nov. 24	v. Old Grovians	A L	8—11	
Dec. 1	v. Disley	H W	8—1	
Dec. 8	v. Chorlton	A W	8—7	
Dec. 15	v. Cheadle Hulme	H W	10—5	
Dec. 22	v. Old Mancunians 'A'	H W	9—6	
Dec. 29	v. Cheadle 'A'	A W	16—3	
1957				
Jan. 5	v. South Manchester and Wythenshawe 'A'	H W	10—2	
Jan. 12	v. Heaton Mersey Guild	A W	13—6	
Jan. 19	v. Stockport	A W	11—6	
(Second Round N.E.L.A. Junior Flags)				
Jan. 26	v. Stockport	H L	5—7	
Feb. 2	v. Old Stopfordians	A L	4—10	
Feb. 9	v. Old Grovians	H W	1—0	
Feb. 16	v. Heaton Mersey Guild at Heaton Mersey	W	8—1	
(Semi-Final N.E.L.A. Junior Flags)				
Feb. 23	v. Chorlton	H L	5—7	

EXTRA 'A' TEAM

1956					
Nov. 24	v. Manchester Univ. 'A'	A	L	3—10	
Dec. 1	v. Urmston 'A'	H	L	1—12	
Dec. 8	v. Ashton 'A'	A	L	0—1	
Dec. 15	v. B'dman & Eccles 'A'	H	W	1—0	
Dec. 22	v. Stockport 'A'	A	D	1—1	
	(Abandoned at Half-Time).				
Dec. 29	v. Rochdale	H	W	9—5	
1957					
Jan. 5	v. South Manchester and Wythenshawe 'A'	A	W	7—3	
Jan. 12	v. Heaton Mersey 'A'	H	L	3—21	
Jan. 19	v. William Hulme's Grammar School	A	L	6—15	
	(Second Round Lancashire Junior Cup).				
Jan. 26	v. Mellor 'A'	H	L	4—9	
Feb. 2	v. Oldham & Werneth	A	L	3—10	
Feb. 9	v. Manchester Univ. 'A'	H	L	6—10	
Feb. 16	v. Offerton 'A'	A	W	7—3	
Feb. 23	v. Ashton 'A'	H	W	6—3	

Old Hulmeians Rugby

Our most cheerful season for weather conditions has not led to a single cancellation of fixtures due to frost, snow, or waterlogged pitches, and we are pleased to report that our ground is one of the best in Manchester in this respect. We cannot say that our results are equally good, but on no occasion have we been ever comfortably beaten, and the biggest margin of difference was nine points against a particularly strong Sale 'A' side, which included a Scottish international, three county players, and one or two of the Sale first team.

We have found that our policy of playing the 'A' teams of senior clubs whenever possible, has resulted in a higher standard of football, and therefore more enjoyable games. It is extremely difficult to arrange these fixtures which change dates from year to year, and we are indebted to Peter Knight for the fact that we have played Manchester, Sale, Broughton Park and Wilmslow twice each this season, with success against two of them. It is hoped that the several Old Boys we have encountered on these club sides are suitably ashamed at their unfortunate choice of the right club to join after leaving school.

There have been no notable achievements by the first XV, but there are signs of more thrust in the centre, more accurate passing and catching, and certainly an excellent defence highly organised by Peter Harrison. No club has scored more than fourteen points against us since last October, and this is largely due to good spotting in the backs,

and adequate cover by the forwards. In attack we have not been very good, and Geoff Carter has been the only back with a very clear idea of what is necessary to score tries.

Bill Lee has improved immeasurably as a hooker, and has been lucky to have props who fit. Ian Smith has travelled up from London to play for us fairly regularly, and Jack Edwards has made the same journey even more often to play for the third team, a remarkable achievement from this most loyal of our members.

It is said that the best go first, and we have been unlucky to lose Ralph Tredwell and Peter Knight to the great Metropolis, both of whom have worked extremely hard on the administrative side of the club. We expect to lose Arthur Firth and John Harrison to the Forces shortly, and will need backs from school if our present standard of play is to be maintained. Since Christmas two masters from school have added solidity and science to the forward play, and we hope for a long association with Mr. Clews and Mr. Corlett.

George Hilton is struggling with the captaincy of an 'A' team which lacks fighting spirit, but this is probably due to a lack of confidence of a youthful side meeting opposition which is often strong and experienced. The team has not supplied any regular members to the first XV since the beginning of the season, and of the backs only Silcock has been given a chance to play in better company.

The Extra 'A' XV has again been struggling, and lacks the weighty experience of players who have grown old in the game. As the club increases the average age of players, however, we feel that the third team will soon be successful.

About a dozen club members went to Twickenham for the match against France, and next year we have fixed a game on the morning of the international match against a side from the Old Merchant Taylors' club, and this will be the first occasion on which the club has played in London.

Much hard work has been done by the Section in preparing the ground for the proposed new premises at Brantingham Road. This has mainly been concerned with ways and means of raising money, although the actual plans are now more or less complete. We are greatly indebted to Colin Nesbitt for his most efficient Lottery, and to the numerous promises of financial support from club members. We do feel, however, that emphasis should not be placed on the idea that a new clubhouse should be primarily for our benefit, but that it should be for the benefit of all Hulmeians in whatever activity they participate, and the Section itself is working wholeheartedly to this end.

RESULTS

1st XV.

1956					
Nov. 10	v.	Burnage	.....	H L	3—8
Nov. 17	v.	Yorkshire C.W.	.....	H L	8—9
Nov. 24	v.	Broughton Park 'A'	.....	A L	21—26
Dec. 1	v.	Manchester 'A'	.....	A D	8—8
Dec. 8	v.	Ashton-on-Mersey 'A'	.....	A L	3—11
Dec. 15	v.	Prestwich	.....	A W	8—6
Dec. 22	v.	Macclesfield	.....	H W	11—0
1957					
Jan. 12	v.	Old Bedians	.....	A D	3—3
Jan. 19	v.	Wilmslow 'A'	.....	H W	3—0
Jan. 26	v.	M/c. College of Tech.	.....	H W	14—3
Feb. 2	v.	Manchester Toc H	.....	H D	3—3
Feb. 9	v.	Sale 'A'	.....	H L	3—12
Feb. 16	v.	Manchester 'A'	.....	H W	11—6
Feb. 23	v.	Old Rochdadians	.....	A L	9—14

'A' XV.

1956					
Nov. 10	v.	Burnage 'A'	.....	A L	0—17
Nov. 17	v.	Davenport Extra 'A'	.....	H L	13—32
Nov. 24	v.	Preston Grasshoppers	.....	
		Extra 'A'	.....	H L	5—20
Dec. 1	v.	Manchester Extra 'A'	.....	H L	0—15
Dec. 8	v.	Ashton-on-Mersey 'A'	.....	H L	0—11
Dec. 15	v.	Prestwich 'A'	.....	H L	0—30
Dec. 22	v.	Ashton-under-Lyne 'A'	.....	A	Cancelled
1957					
Jan. 12	v.	Old Bedians 'A'	.....	H W	19—0
Jan. 19	v.	Wilmslow Extra 'A'	.....	A L	3—31
Jan. 26	v.	M/c. Col. of Tech. 'A'	.....	A W	13—6
Feb. 2	v.	Manchester Toc H 'A'	.....	H L	3—33
Feb. 9	v.	Sale Extra 'A'	.....	A L	6—20
Feb. 16	v.	Manchester Extra 'A'	.....	H L	6—20

EXTRA 'A' XV.

1956					
Nov. 10	v.	Burnage Extra 'A'	.....	H L	6—12
Nov. 17	v.	Davenport 'B'	.....	A W	40—0
Nov. 24	v.	Preston Grassh's 'B'	.....	H L	0—8
Dec. 1	v.	Manchester 'B'	.....	A L	9—25
Dec. 8	v.	Ashton-on-Mersey	.....	
		Extra 'A'	.....	A L	8—15
Dec. 15	v.	Prestwich Extra 'A'	.....	A L	8—20
Dec. 22	v.	Old Rochdadians Ex.	.....	
		'A'	.....	H	Cancelled
1957					
Jan. 12	v.	Broughton Park Colts	.....	H L	3—17
Jan. 19	v.	Wilmslow 'B'	.....	H L	3—17
Feb. 2	v.	M/c. Toc H Extra 'A'	.....	A L	3—21
Feb. 9	v.	Sale 'B'	.....	H L	0—52
Feb. 16	v.	Manchester 'B'	.....	A L	3—17

Old Hulmeians Motor Club

The rationing of petrol necessitated a review of the list of forthcoming events for the season, and it was decided to restrict our activities to purely social ones until petrol became generally available.

A 'Quiz' was held at School on the 15th of November. The ladies were given bonus marks, and the final result showed that the Hon. Sec. was the most knowledgeable male present, and Miss Judy Moorcroft the best-informed lady. The photographs projected aroused much interest and argument, which continued during refreshments in the Dining Hall.

At the Annual Dinner and Dance held on the 1st of December at The Woodlands Hotel, Timperley, we were very pleased to have with us this year's President of the Association, Mr. A. H. Allman, and Mrs. Allman who presented the awards gained during the year, as follows:—

Mar. 18	—Treasure Hunt—	W. T. Curtis.
April 8	—Navigation Rally—	W. T. Curtis.
	Navigator's Award—	H. A. Whatley.
May 27	—Gymkhana—	P. A. T. Clarke.
	Runner-up—	R. W. Crouchley.
Sept. 9	—Driving Tests—	R. J. Bloor.
	Best Visitor—	R. D. Bailey.
Nov. 1	—Quiz—	Allan Smith.
	Best Lady—	Miss Judith Moorcroft.

The Pidd Trophy was awarded to W. T. Curtis for two outright wins and a substantial number of attendance points. This is the first time since 1938 that the Trophy has been competed for, and it is interesting to record that the last holder, Austin Clarke, was also present.

Our Chairman, Jack Rickards was unable to be with us owing to illness, and was greatly missed.

Our second Film Show was presented by Messrs. Shell-Mex & B.P. Ltd., at School on the 16th of January, and the films covered a wide range of aspects of motoring, from Veteran Cars to the latest thing in Racing Cars, and from Hill-climbs to Skid-pans for the training of 'bus drivers. Perhaps the most interesting of all was *Rig 20*, a Documentary Film showing the efforts made to bring an oil-well fire under control. This film was awarded a prize at the Venice Film Festival.

In February, we held a 'Noggin and Natter' at a local Hostelry, which was attended by twenty members and friends. Lively discussions took place, and some interesting information was circulated.

A monthly bulletin is issued to all members, and an interesting programme of fixtures has been

arranged for the whole of the forthcoming year, which will be expanded when petrol becomes unrestricted.

Considering the present limitation on motoring, our events have been well supported, but we should like to build up the present membership of sixty-five to a round hundred. If any potential member, therefore, would like more particulars, the Hon. Sec., Allan Smith, 39 Athol Road, Manchester 16, Tel.: CHOrlton 6156, will be glad to supply same.

Old Hulmeians at Oxford University

The river was high. The light spring sun, falling through the canopy of foliage, splintered into glittering fragments on the water. Beyond, it settled in the brooding meadows, the mist of morning not yet awake. We had walked early; now we rested, the Chablis soothing our minds, smoke and dreams rising into the leaves. It was a moment maculated by the touch of human life. I recalled the Rubaiyat of Kubla Khan:

"A Jug of Verses underneath the bough,
A Book of Bread, a Loaf of Wine—and Thou."

In less Theocritean garb, came Keith Harding down the Turl from Exeter. His shining morning face sent a shiver of petrified embarrassment through Trinity gates, and the books in Parker's bristled their gilt edges in surprise. But Keith can take it. He wasn't russian round Bodmin Moor for nothing.

John Baker assures me he has not sinned this term. But don't believe this. I live with him—always last up. He's been rowing hard, of course—bow of B.N.C. first Eight. Loyalty to college prevents me from appending the disastrous results of this adventure. David Bamber has followed in his wake by getting into the second Eight—which, at least, did not have quite such a dented stern. When I asked him, he could not clearly remember doing anything—simply gazed into the wallpaper. Was it a vision, or a flaking cream?

Colin Gee has been playing lacrosse this term, as he did last term, and the term before. He's been playing lacrosse a long time. Is often seen during the day with no pyjamas on.

Don Hankey has busied himself with organising the Old Hulmeians' dinner which, by the time you read these charmed words, will be lying cold in the paper-basket of memory. We all, I think, look forward to seeing our phrenetic fratres in Cantab., and thank Don for taking on the job of mediator.

Why does Brian Knowles look so happy these days?

Mike Blackburn (Keble) digs his nose pretty deep into law books at the moment. Plays clarinet, drums, tea-chest, lacrosse. Otherwise, lives in the bosom of felicity, the Universal Nurse of Humankind.

Sing now, O Muse, of Graham, noble Ellisidas. He, wielding the bitter scalpel, guardian of lofty Keble's citadel, oft is seen like a regal lion that rejoiceth in its strength. Yet, while we on the one hand indeed are punting on the weed-winding Cherwell, he on the other hand this summer will be making sacrifice in the temple of Aesculapius; yes, doing many splendid deeds.

Tom Oliver (surely not Keble again) is soon to resign his position as captain of the Iroquois. He has served the Iroquois steadily throughout the term, and all the Iroquois will be sorry to see him leave. Q:—Who are the Iroquois? Fencing or Embroidery?

Ian Graham-Bryce takes Finals in the summer, aspirins in the winter. He now has a pretty room in Merton Street, where ivy climbs the walls.

Last, and least, of these Oxford Worthies comes Dudley Harrop. Sometimes it's too sunny for him to concentrate; othertimes he finds it difficult to concentrate in the rain. In his recreational hours he makes up for lost sleep. *Carpe diem sed carpe noctem*, too.

J.D.S.H.

Old Hulmeians at Cambridge University

Take a stroll one of these cold bright Cambridge days with the backdrop of blue sky, the sun a powerful yellow 'spot' and your scenery—King's Chapel radiantly white, its pinnacles jabbing the heavens—will be all ready for the characters.

Geoffrey Denton (Peterhouse) perhaps clutching affectionately an armful of legal ledgers and murmuring something about Cambridge Lacrosse being faster On Ice—finally dashing off to see his favourite impressario. Jim Delaney (Fitzwilliam) may be currently seen, if you are near Girton, but a fleeting glimpse may be obtained here as he is thought to make a weekly waggon ride into town to stock up with Nescafé, crumpets and other victuals for the outback.

Should you yield to the insidious arguments of some Lucky Jim in favour of early tennis or punting, you may, as this scribe has done, still fail to collide with Charles Dickens (Fitzwilliam) or Ken Harper (Peterhouse). Rumours that the latter

spends eight days a week in athletics and aqua-sports sound only too true to be false. Eric Willcock (Selwyn) can be located by tracing the source of mysterious pamphlets to his abode from which he prosecutes and pursues Old Boys' Dinner moneys and other schemes of dubious intent.

The term glides soundlessly on while you rush to satisfy contingent being in the form of Valentines, supervisors and continental films: no more dither about absolutes! Like Eliot, you *know* you grow old (half way through my university career already?) and the decision as to whether the bottoms of your jeans or cavalry twills should be rolled belongs already to another life, a Christmas vacation away.

The nervous, insane outcrop of cellar parties and jazz band balls merely accentuates the ancient leisured life of autumn crumpet parties, muddy rugby giants and coffee house guitars. Consequently, Gordon Leah's (Jesus) excellent teas were doubly welcome for their temporary relief of *angst* and their exquisite nostalgia. Gordon, incidentally should go on record as remarking that work 'is really mental snatch-and-jerk': he vigorously denies he is reading gym with optional weight-lifting for Part Two. Tony Dyson (Emmanuel) enjoys a traumatic haccers game or two, and claims in despite of the topography of Owen's or Cowley's Latin Quarter, that fens and quicksands *do* give Trinity New Field an exciting piquancy in monsoon weather.

David Latham, researching in English at Glasgow, is followed north by another Christ's man, Keith Hoskinson, who is teaching at York, while yet another of the Christ's galaxy, Colin Smith, continues to devote some of his busy life to keeping the school's sport *par excellence* in the forefront of Cambridge athleticizing. Paul Marlton (Manchester) was an unexpected and welcome visiting player to bump into, and other sources report that Dudley Harrop and Michael Blackburn insist on making forays to this marshy mind centre with instruments as diverse as belly-fiddles and 'crosses for ends as remote as gutbucket music and French-Canadian sporting divertimentos. Doubtful authority tells me that Anthony Brazen-dale (Christ's) shelters in the merest fungus and partners a contra-mandolin to Trinity bottle-parties.

Finally, we look forward to meeting the Headmaster and Mr. Williams at the inaugural Oxbridge dinner to be held here this term and assure any staff, Old Boys, or members of the School of a warm welcome should they care to look us up when in the vicinity.

Old Hulmeians at Manchester University

Should these remarks appear to bear a tinge of sadness, it is because certain Old Boys, whose epitaph they might very well become, have finally glimpsed the end of their tenure at this austere seat of learning. What we lack in architectural splendour we make up for with a rapidly built but deeply seated tradition, the adieu to which not surprisingly causes us no small pang. To Old Boys who will be coming up in October we would say that in our experience, Life is what happens to us while we are making other plans. It has happened to us all too soon and we would suggest that newcomers bear this in mind if only in the humorous hope of skirting the professorial pitfalls encountered by us, their figurative forefathers.

At the present moment, however, sage admonitions still fail to break through our own acquired cocoon of *savoir vivre*. Despite the local fuel shortage, Rag Week has been organised and its agents are poised and awaiting the signal to assault the City in the usual contra-statutory fashion. We hope that the civic elders will once more have been induced to adopt a benevolent attitude towards our efforts in which the past has shewn, Old Boys play a prominent part. The prelude to this is the Rag-Ball, a sort of recreation of a less dignified scene in Ancient Rome, after which it is a phenomenon that people have the physical resources left to join the procession. The sequel to this event is appropriately termed 'Poor Man's', where what would normally, in a bus, for example, be called a crowd is rhapsodised upon in the Press as friendly intimacy at Tech.

Those of us reading Law will have completed—a vague but pleasantly nebulous term—exams before these charitable activities take place. It has never been discovered why the Law School does everything at a different time from everyone else but our successors might find it a boost to accuracy if it could be discovered. The disadvantage is that we tend to mock our less fortunate neighbours who do Easter terminals, only to be rudely torn from our golden days far sooner than they are, which proves a great hindrance to sociability.

Talking of going to ground, the final stage in the University Year and the one which always causes most trouble to the writers of this column, is that following the Easter Vac. Here most Old Boys tend to find that no man needs a vacation so much as the man who has just had one, which makes it very hard (a) to find them, and (b) if one does find a straggler, to browbeat some sort of statement from him. For our present purposes however, we trust that protocol will be satisfied by our assurance

that those Old Boys whose names have previously appeared in this report are still circulating with reasonable momentum. We hope that those who have hitherto been incognito to the extent of avoiding mention will abandon caution and, preferably backed by a writ, make their presence evident to subsequent writers.

Despite threats of defamation proceedings pursuant upon our last column, however, we feel it only fair to warn the public at large that David Sanders still skiffles hotly in preparation for his advent to the metropolitan Bar; J. P. Gutteridge still works—in fact is suspected by less eager confederates to have acquired a mortgage on the library, while Geoff Rhodes patiently awaits the clarion call to arms from his cosy smoke-shrouded T.A. bunker. Between music, study and the militia, to take but a very superficial gloss, Old Boys of this generation have welded quite a characteristic heritage. More will be recorded of our activities at a future date but we can say with justification that visitors and new arrivals need no longer entertain the popular Manchester fallacy that the large black buildings of Oxford Road constitute 'The Museum'. This myth we have all exploded. There is quite a life behind the back-blocks and to this atmosphere of congeniality, we welcome, as always, Freshmen and emigrés alike.

J.C.

Old Hulmeians at University College of North Wales, Bangor

The snows have fallen, thick and fast, the cold has been and chilled us all to the bone, but now the mellow rays of the spring sun shine down to wake us from listless slumbers. The days are mild, like the cool of an August evening and the city lies as always, still and quiet beneath us, while we are left to ponder over the term's events. Rag-Week left its impression on all of us in terms of bleary eyes, late breakfasts and general fatigue, due to lack of sleep.

R. Hall and W. Cartwright have been hard to find amid the turmoil of student life. We suspect the former, now President of the Agricultural Society, of succumbing to work, while the latter has been playing rugby for the College and football for a nondescript team known simply as 'The Lads.'

Of the younger fry, most of us have given up work as a dying custom, or at least until the exams become more imminent, and every day one or more can be seen enjoying some form of physical recreation. M. A. Royle, when not pestering the

writer for long forgotten chemistry notes (which were unintelligible anyway), has spent his time rowing on the Straits in preparation for the University of Wales Regatta at Hereford.

A. C. Morris has decided to supplement the athletic training offered by the Rugby Club by taking up cross-country running and may be seen staggering back to his room most Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. He also played an active part in the Rag looking remarkably like one of the I.R.A., who mysteriously arrived on Menai Bridge, complete with a barricade of signs, to collect tolls from unsuspecting motorists.

G. W. Hardman has managed to get a game on the 1st Rugby XV and is still trying to become proficient at Bridge and Chemistry, though many of us, like him, feel the latter is the height of impossibility. He, too, was suspected, with the writer, of knowing more about the alarm clock that appeared in a practical class than most people, though both deny the allegations.

If you should come to Bangor (which contrary to popular belief is not a waste of time) and see an unruly beard, currently capped by a proficient crew-cut, then we recommend a closer examination which may reveal the features of C. E. Bryans. Once again, his main sport has been the complete abandonment of unnecessary work, coupled with cross-country running, in which latter field he was chosen to run for University of Wales. His other activities have included an occasional trip to the rugby field, a Sunday morning's row on the Straits and a hectic week designing, making and fretting over a monster fly built for Rag Ball. It is of note that no one could think of anything to do with it afterwards, except perhaps parcel the thing up and return it to the originator C.O.D.

Mountaineering, providing the weather is perfect and he can be awakened in time, has once again attracted P. Gabbott, and his room is cluttered up with ropes, slings and ice axes, abandoned before collapsing into his bed, muttering about some obscure snow slope he found. Again this term he has played a few games of basketball, visiting Birmingham, Sheffield and Aberystwyth, the trip to the last named proving nothing more than an uncomfortable six hours' drive, since a boiler blew up just before the game was scheduled to start.

N.B.—Do not take the apparent lack of brain work too seriously as it is only our way of ensuring a fresh bunch of Old Boys at our paradise by the sea next session (probably to replace some of us who won't return).

P. A. G.

Association of Old Hulmeians in London

There has not been much activity in the London Association since the Dinner at the end of October, although the Committee is now preparing a list of events for this year. It is hoped that there will be more to report in the next issue.

We have now a list of the names and addresses of seventy-six old boys who are living in the London area, and who have expressed an interest in the Association.

Any others in this category who are interested are invited to get in touch with the Secretary, C. G. Dennis, at the Town Hall, Chingford, London E.4.

Parents' Association Notes

During the last term many of the parents have been helping to organise an Easter Fair. To all of them we are indebted and we hope that these efforts will culminate in a glorious finale on Saturday next, April 6th, at 2-30 p.m. You will have received notices about all the various activities and the stalls that will be there, and we hope that you and your friends will come and make the success of our fair certain. Our aim, you know, is £2,000 and we need everyone's support. Your personal attendance is very earnestly requested.

Whatever the outcome financially, it is evident that so many parents meeting together so often, and so pleasantly, can do nothing but enhance the reputation of our Association.

Personalities among the parents, who have been playing major parts in the fair, will be mentioned at a later date; but it is fitting that two stalwarts on the school staff should here be mentioned. We have found both in and out of committee, the help of Mr. Bonnick and Mr. Taylor of inestimable value, so to them and to those who have helped them, we say a very sincere "Thank you."

We had a very enjoyable evening at the school on February 20th, when the Rev. Eric Saxon talked on the subject of a *A Good Home*. Those present all felt the sincerity and good sense running

through his address. The Headmaster, as Chairman, was in his usual good form and Mrs. Stockdale in her inimitable style thanked both Mr. Saxon and Mr. Bird for a most enjoyable evening. The coffee and biscuits in the Dining Hall at the close of the evening rounded off another very noteworthy occasion.

The Staff and Parents' Supper Social at the Fallowfield Hotel, on Friday, March 22nd, is still to come as these notes go to the printer; but it is known that, even by February 20th, all the available tickets had been taken up, a waiting list of some length compiled and the writer hopeful that a profitable 'black market' was in prospect. We are assured of a very happy evening and to those who will not be with us we can but say, "Better luck next time."

With regard to next term and our known meetings; during the latter part of May, or early June, we hold the Annual General Meeting, at which all members of the General Committee are elected. So many new active members have come to the fore during the year that this election could well be no matter of routine and, believing that, we hope you will come along and help to strengthen the enthusiasm which is self-evident.

We also have our cricket fixtures. The dates are not yet certain, but we are certain of the need of cricket candidates. It would be unfortunate if, in this year of effort, we did not produce first-class opposition to the school first and second teams and, of course, to the school staff. Net practices are arranged. Teas are provided and good fellowship is 'on tap' all the time. We should be glad to have your name if you are real cricketer. We should be delighted to have your name if you just play cricket. We would esteem it a privilege if you would put your name down in a third category, along with my own, to play in an emergency. Whatever your group, will you please contact the Vice-Chairman, Dr. Cooke (DID 1437), who will give you any relevant details.

So Easter is here and once again we pay tribute to all who encourage and teach our boys, thankful in the knowledge that, at William Hulme's Grammar School, they could be in no better hands.

On behalf of the committee,

S. V. HICKLING, *Hon. Secretary.*

6 Lydgate Road, Droylsden.
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