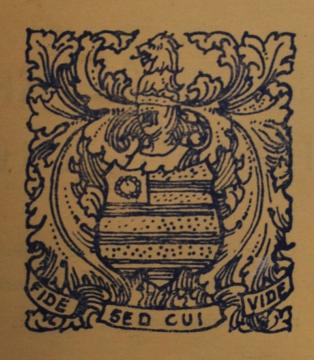
THE

HULMEIAN



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The HULMEIAN

The Magazine of William Hulme's Grammar School

VOL. XIII.

MARCH, 1956

No. 14

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School Notes and News

We have much pleasure in welcoming to the School Mr. A. Dudman, B.A. (Scholar of St. Edmund Hall) as an additional member of the English staff. After coming down from Oxford Mr. Dudman did a year's research at Columbia University, New York.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of Alderman H. Norcross, who served on the School's Governing Body for many years with devotion and enthusiasm, as a representative of Lancashire County Council. He is succeeded by Councillor J. L. Bagot to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

Last term ended, as usual, with a Carol Service. On the following day the Choir again sang at the Mid-day Service at St. Ann's Church in the City. The same evening the Prefects' Annual Dance was held.

Founders' Day was held on Thursday, January 26th, in the Cathedral, when the Dean, the Very Rev. A. H. Jones, B.Sc., delivered the address.

J. H. Delany and J. D. E. Rayman have been appointed prefects this term.

We congratulate I. M. Stewart on being awarded a Hulme Exhibition at Brasenose College, Oxford, in History, A. E. Backhouse on an Exhibition at Keble College, Oxford, in Science, J. D. E. Rayman on a Minor Scholarship in Classics at Wadham College, Oxford.

Dr. and Mrs. Jecny are taking a party of boys to Gielo in Norway for the Winter Sports during the Easter Holidays. Mr. Collings is also taking a party to Paris. We hope they will all have a most enjoyable and profitable time.

The names of J. A. G. Rimmer, E. A. Rose and I. M. Stewart should have been added to the list of those awarded Manchester City Exhibitions in last term's magazine.

The Midsummer Term will begin on Tuesday, April 17th, at 9-15 a.m.

The Whitsuntide holidays will extend from Friday, May 18th, at 12-30 p.m. to Tuesday, May 29th, at 9-15 a.m.

Midsummer Term will end on Friday, July 20th, at four o'clock.

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of The Crosbeian, The Denstonian, The Savilian, The Waconian and the magazine of The King's School, Macclesfield.

Julius Caesar

"Julius Caesar" is a masculine play, a chronicle of turbulent events in Rome's history, revealing self-seeking and conspiracy, murder and revenge.

This aspect of the play was presented briskly and without subtlety. The appearances of the crowd gave us lurid reminders of the unruly, savage mood in which the main events develop. Some of its members were rather wooden—no more so than they should be, perhaps—but the leaders (H. Porter, R. B. Rudkin, J. S. Wright, I. C. Smith) were splendidly animated, a delight to watch and to hear.

But the play does not merely relate historical events: it creates living, complex characters. At times one got the impression that the character had been summed up in terms of the 'chronicle' figure. Rich depths of sentiment were not reached.

The crowd begin the play by their impulsive support of Caesar, but Shakespeare gives us a very unattractive character. Shaw felt that Shakespeare had been unfair to Caesar, and his own hero in "Caesar and Cleopatra" is as genial and free from pompousness as Shakespeare's is self-centred and haughty. E. W. Dickinson was eager to emphasize the surliness of the character, but his scowling portrayal was too rigidly imposed: one missed the soft moodiness of the great man in decline, and the remote fantasy of his private world.

He was an obvious victim for the restless, bitter Cassius. D. D. A. Lamb excelled in drawing from his lines the subtlest, shrewdest insinuations. Vocally he was admirable, and his general manner was easy. His gestures were weak. Flabby left-hand movements with fingers splayed out lessened the tension of his acting. It is a fault of inexperience for a player to point to everything to which he refers, and Lamb—for example, in the line 'The

fault, dear Brutus, is not in ourselves, But in our stars'—was too fond of this mannerism. He must realise what is involved in being an actor 'down to the finger-tips', for he shows great promise.

The noisy mood of the opening scenes had affected some of the actors. It was hard at times to see Brutus as the meditative idealist when he spoke in so fierce a tone. F. Cosgrove gave us a sincere, earnest Brutus, always deadly serious, but lacking in scholarly refinement and delicacy of mind. He lacked variety of tone and pace: soliloquies failed to give the impression of private anxiety—he shouted where he should have whispered, and spoke to his servant Lucius in the same tone as to Cassius. W. A. Drapkin as Portia was restrained and dignified, but could have been more varied in tone and more urgent.

There is some unreality in uncontrolled bitterness, and R. V. Chadwick's deeply-felt performance as Casca would have been improved if he had not thrown away his sneering harshness on insignificant lines. The rest of the conspirators were well varied; the angular, tight-lipped Decius Brutus (A. J. Wintringham), the darkly-sinister Trebonius (R. B. Edge) and the active, eager Metellus Cimber (R. A. Lloyd), gave reality to the plotting scenes, though they stood awkwardly as a group in the scene where they were introduced to Brutus.

Caesar's doom is sealed in the scene where he arrogantly resists the warnings of the augurers and of his wife, Calpurnia. This part was brought vividly to life by D. W. Grindey. He recounted the dream impressively.

The first climax, Caesar's murder, was effectively staged—the momentary alarm, the urgency of the petitioners, Caesar's final show of annoyance—'Hence, wilt thou lift up Olympus?' One remembers Cassius' private smile of triumph as the deed is accomplished. The brief episode with the elderly Publius (M. J. Hemmerdinger) should have been played more mildly and quietly as a contrast with the turbulent activity.

The second half of the play was heralded by the appearance of Antony's messenger (B. R. Hughes), whose dignified tones prepared us for his master's entrance. There might therefore have been a more significant pause as the servant entered.

Some of the play's best moments came from the interplay in this scene between the fine tones of Antony's grief, the earnestness of Brutus in reassuring Antony, and the uneasiness and suppressed anger of the conspirators. B. W. Derbyshire as Antony spoke with fine control and prophetic insight when he remained behind, alone with Caesar.

The scene where Brutus and Antony in turn address the crowd is the most brilliant tour de force in the play. Brutus gravely explains the reasons for the murder, and Cosgrove's singleness of heart and mind deservedly impressed the crowd. In contrast, Antony masters the crowd by a process of gradual persuasion. Derbyshire had many of the tricks of technique needed in this difficult role. He understood the crowd, spoke movingly, used gestures effectively, and was content to give the mob time to seize his suggestive hints. One missed, perhaps a hint of self-awareness and irony from Antony as he disclaimed any intention to stir them up to 'a sudden flood of mutiny'. Haphazard movement after Antony had descended from the rostrum took away some of the effectiveness of the reading of the will, at the close of the scene.

Almost inevitably the crowd were a little tame during this long scene, but their leaders worked tirelessly in directing their wrath. Their vindictive force was unleashed on Cinna—servant of the arts, not conspirator—a mild little figure, played with well-simulated innocence by C. V. Hickling.

All the characters have diminished in stature when they reappear in the last two acts. Antony's great moment is long over, and he is now revealed as the showman that he is, flippant and sneering. Lepidus (D. K. Swindells) is a mere tool of the others. Octavius is the only rising character. He is dismissed by Cassius as 'a peevish schoolboy', but B. W. Wilson revealed him as a youthful, determined figure. He spoke with decision and stood grandly resplendent in gorgeous armour.

Of the conspirators, only Brutus and Cassius remain, and their depression and touchiness was well portrayed. Their quarrel was a hard verbal tussle, and it had pace, although at the end Cassius remained bitter where he should have softened almost to morbid tears.

The general tone of Brutus should have been more subdued and resigned, as of a man who is daily realizing that he has done the wrong thing.

J. M. A. Thompson deserves praise as the eager and devoted Lucius. He produced some soothing, atmospheric music just before the ghost entered.

The lighting cues were often missed: some important scenes were marred by experimental and impromptu backstage activities. This fault was most noticeable in the scene in Brutus' tent, which began with the conference and ended with the appearance of the ghost.

Shakespeare's battle scenes are hard to stage. They are scrappy, intended merely to suggest the course of events. They were played with vigour, and the urgent action was well conveyed by J. P. Bishop as a harsh, hardened Titinius, and J. S. Wright as a stocky, loyal Pindarus,

Effective use in these closing scenes was made of different stage levels. Characters here were well grouped: this was not so in some of the earlier scenes.

The background settings seemed over-elaborate. In the earlier scenes the eye was distracted by a crowded back-cloth showing a number of notable Roman buildings in varying degrees of perspective. When the final scenes took us to 'The Plains of Philippi', it was not helpful to witness a scene which appeared to be a small clearing in a thick forest.

It is a fault of inexperience to speak too loudly, to be over-lavish in gesture or wooden in stance, and to under-estimate the importance of timing. Occasional faulty pausing showed that the meaning of a line had been missed. Cassius should have emphasized the last word in 'He should not humour me'. 'Portentious' for 'portentous' jarred upon the ear. Some actors, notably Lamb, showed a real feeling for the poetry of their lines; but even he ruined the rhythm of one of his lines by his mispronunciation of 'controversy'.

The production had energy and pace. The acting was ardent and sincere. Voices were never inaudible. The play was crisply brought to life, and it is a triumph for Mr. Lowe, who produced, to have presented such a smooth, workmanlike production.

The Entertainments

It is good to be able to report on a highly enjoyable season of Tuesday plays. The standard has risen considerably, largely owing to careful production. The plays chosen have ranged from G. B. Shaw to a commendable effort by a second-former. Attendances have been good.

The first play was "His Excellency the Governor", a richly worded little piece by Paul Vincent Carroll. The curtain opened to an impressive panorama: the setting was well suggested by skilful curtain hangings, and by a carefully-grouped array of gaily-robed figures. We soon discovered that we were present in a small oriental courtroom, in the country of Piffenruffel.

The play will be chiefly remembered for an accomplished performance by A. Leak as the Governor. He entered with relish into the spirit of his part. He preened himself, and delivered his eloquent judgments with fine self-appreciation, He

found bananas 'an unfailing source of inspiration', but he consumed them with delicacy, and was never caught out by having to speak with his mouth full.

W. S. Sloan was an intelligent and well-spoken Clerk of the Court, wisely following his master's lead:

Thimble-Khan (G. A. Eagland) was a benign yet lively plaintiff. As the defendent, Mem-Gissock-Mem, R. A. Charlton was too subdued in voice and gesture, and lost the wheedling flamboyancy of his part.

Of the Court officials, J. W. Marr as the Guard was quite decorative but hardly forceful enough; A. H. Carter as Scrab Scribel, tended to speak too hurriedly.

Mr. Foulds, the producer, and these newcomers to the School, are to be congratulated on giving the season such an entertaining start.

For his production with 4a, Mr. Scully chose "The Poacher", which, like his previous form play, "Birds of a Feather", gives a homely insight into Welsh life and ways.

The story is enacted in the home of Twmas, an ex-poacher. In attempting to capture the adult heartiness of his part, R. B. Rudkin tended to be too aggressive. C. Worsnip as his wife spoke up quite well, but was not entirely at ease.

There was far too much aimless movement during single passages of dialogue. This was distracting.

H. Porter tried hard with the part of Dicky Bach Dwl, but he lacked the animal spirits which make this character so endearing. Dicky's quick, eager nature would have been better suggested if light shoes had been worn.

The small cast was completed by D. W. Grindey as the dignified Dafydd Hughes. He had an impressive manner and his diction was clear.

The play went along briskly at times, but failed to be completely effective. Forgotten lines caused awkward pauses, and at times these moments were needlessly emphasized by the helpless actors. In such emergencies the thing to do is to keep the play moving by an improvised word or movement until the correct cue arrives. Once stage illusion is lost, it is hard to recover.

The lighting was inadequate. Faces were often obscured. Dicky wore a big cap, and should have looked up to prevent his darkly-made-up face from being completely lost to view.

"Androcles and the Lion", an old fable 'renovated' by Bernard Shaw, was very successfully performed by a talented cast from 2Y.

It is a short play, and it follows a long Preface in which Mr. Shaw 'tidies up' Christian belief into a neat, rationalistic pattern. Its main theme is the position of the troublesome eccentric, and the persecutions which any society is ready to impose to check his disturbing influence.

Shaw has a quality lacked by many more pretentious dramatists of the present day—the 'common touch'. He can dramatise the facts of life with a clarity and compassion free from cloudy sentiment. He misses the intangible ecstasies and mysteries of life: he cannot present a mood, only a point of view.

In this play the general tone is one of rough, bantering humour, which brings the Christian victims into strong relief.

Androcles' wife disappears from the play after a brief, bullying appearance. The performance of D. Robinson as this loud-mouthed termagant would have been more effective if he had not been violently abusive all the time. In contrast, M. C. Dyer gave an easy, relaxed performance as the inoffensive Androcles. His voice was clear and he did not force it. It was good to see the genuine affection between Androcles and the lion, and they did a vigorous polka together.

The perfomance had pace, cues were taken up smartly, entrances were well managed: it was a model of timing. Changes of scene were effected by the simple device of dividing the stage into two sections and lighting the appropriate half.

The cast knew their lines, but, more than that, they knew the parts they had to play, and there were many notable individual performances.

C. P. Langford as the Editor understood his part well. He was brisk and sardonic in his first encounter with the Christians, and urgent and impassioned when their fearless sincerity had so affected him. He must learn to stand still. C. H. Townsend also, as the Centurion, fidgeted too much, but was a bluff, if not burly, custodian of the Christians.

Among these, D. P. Swain as Ferrovius was forceful in stance and voice in the part of the newly-converted Soldier of Christ who is still strongly drawn to his former god Mars.

Lavinia, fearless and calm, was played with dignity by J. Woodhead.

D. C. Roberts played the part of Spintho, the profligate who is in the ranks of the Christians in the hope of Heavenly gain. It is a difficult part,

but he managed to suggest the terror of this creature as his nerve gave way.

The last scene introduced an element of farce, with the lean, haughty Emperor (K. McAlpine) being forced to shake hands with Androcles, and fleeing from the pursuing lion. This last personage was played by M. R. Kay, and he gave us an animal that could be both playful and fierce.

The excitement of these last moments was not marked enough. The reactions of the crowd at the arena were poor.

The play was adroitly staged, grouping was good, and the play was appropriately costumed. We were again indebted to Mr. Thomas for a very pleasing production.

Enterprising publicity had aroused widespread interest in "The Island of Doom", presented by 2A. High expectations were amply justified.

To begin with, it was a musical play, with catchy tunes and fresh, breezy lyrics. J. E. Ellis at the piano was Musical Director, and he started us off with a firm, tuneful overture.

Then the dialogue was snappy and lively, and the influence of Gilbert was apparent in the handful of eccentrics.

Chief of these was Captain (Cracker) Doom. A. H. Williamson soon revealed him as a plausible, smooth-tongued fraud. When he began to sing he proved to have a powerful voice of surprising range. The Captain cannot resist a joke, even at his own expense: 'String him to the Yardarm!—whatever the yard-arm is'. Williamson sang, swaggered and blustered delightfully.

He had a perfect foil in the solid, serious Bo'sun, played by A. D. Cooper.

Another lively character was introduced when D. Kaiserman was dragged on to the stage as the stowaway journalist, Daniel Defoe. In trilby and mac', he looked a knowing little city man, he was agile and business-like, and his attempt to cash in by taking photographs of the sailors was amusingly done. He sang lustily and well.

The first complication in the play arises from the complaint of an angry Cook: 'I put me 'eart and soul into this pancake, sir, and nobody will eat it'. No one could have given a more sulky dignity to this part than D. L. Jones, especially when he decided it was time to "Get me mad up!"

It was not long before the expected mutiny occurred. The leader of the angry crew was the First Mate, Rake Chain ('There's something underhand about me, Something chaps can't stand about me'). S. G. Wood soon gained confidence, and played the part with a calculated nastiness.

The crew, who had been rather lifeless so far, began to look more animated, and they sang 'To sail the Atlantic is surely romantic' with fine spirit.

The confusions of the plot are resolved when the crew drag on to the stage a chest containing none other than a very up-to-date Robinson Crusoe. He eats the pancake with relish, and the Cook's strike ends; and he produces from his cricket-bag the long-sought treasure. J. L. Smith gave a cultured Crusoe of refined accent: a monocled, public-school figure, whose main interest is cricket ("Twenty years behind with my M.C.C. Subscription"). He put over his songs well in a 'Western Brothers' drawl.

Mr. Bonnick was the producer, and he made excellent use of stage facilities, costumes, and cast. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Their success was due in a large measure to the expert assistance of Mr. Williams on the musical side. The play was enthusiastically received by a large audience.

"King till Twelve O'clock", a gay story of rival kings and romantic love—a 'Romeo and Juliet' with a happy ending—was well within the powers of a keen cast drawn from 1B.

P. Abell gave a jolly performance as Samilo, the sleepy little King of Argumania, an endearing escapist, even in pursuit of 'forty winks'. His angular and sharp-tongued queen was given a spirited portrayal by I. E. Roxburgh.

The Chancellor (E. Roberts) lacked gravity, and spoke rather hastily, J. D. Broadbent as the General was colourfully dressed: he looked heroic and spoke rousingly. The Cook (R. L. Brown) was a grand, solid figure. He stood beautifully still.

Great care had been taken with setting and costumes. Crown Prince Ivon was a dashing figure in yellow tights and black doublet slashed with yellow. C. L. Roxburgh played this part with firm stance, precise gestures and clear voice. His companion, Tommy, was pleasingly played by P. W. Booth. Princess Blowflower (S. S. Wainer) was a lively but quite royal little miss, and she entered gaily into the designs of her princely admirer.

R. G. Atack gave a vivid performance as her father, the King of Ogorania. He was able to suggest dark fierceness and also the devoted love of a parent.

The play was produced with careful attention to detail by Dr. Jecny. It was good to watch as well as to hear. The banquet episode did not entirely succeed: it is not easy for an audience to gain a purely aesthetic pleasure from the sight of other

people feasting. But it contained a memorable toast: 'Here's to all of us, and may this banquet last for twenty years!'

Scenes from "Toad of Toad Hall" were enjoyably presented by 1C, under the direction of Mr. Clews. Costumes had been aptly chosen to denote the various animals, and an artistic touch was given by masks which had been made by Mr. Barnett.

The Court-scene went quite well, but it could have had a more boisterous tone. The Judge (C. H. Templar) spoke precisely, but he was not sufficiently outraged. R. Sleigh was a bluff, stolid Policeman: he savoured his lines and had a malicious gleam in his eye. The Jury were a decorative little group, and their varying animal voices were well exploited.

M. C. Hedgman as Toad spoke clearly and deliberately, but was rather restrained in this scene. His body was largely hidden by a high dock, so that he was for much of the scene a disembodied mask. His final outburst of defiance could have been more effective if he had leapt out and intimidated the jury. As it was, their reaction was tame.

Badger (D. L. Jones) declaimed forbiddingly, H. H. Lynn as the Rat and F. J. Kenworthy as the Mole both gave eager and sympathetic performances.

The usurping weasels in their banquet scene were solemn and subdued, when we expected a wild, riotous gathering, They were led by D. F. L. Chadd as a sinister Chief Weasel. His sardonic after-dinner speech was excellent mockery, nicely timed.

The last moments of the play, after Toad had regained possession, were very entertaining. Toad really began to swell here, stimulated by the admiration of the weasels. They were soon dancing round the elevated, flamboyant figure, and one by one, the three friends—the rather shame-faced Badger last of all—could not resist joining themselves to the circle of worshippers. A happy and appropriate ending to an entertaining little play.

"The Taffywinkle 'Bus", presented by 2B, was a notable production. The script was devised by a member of the form, M. J. Lynch. The plot was at times obscure, but he succeeded in creating distinct characters and amusing scenes.

The trouble arises from the refusal of the local squire (W. R. Allman)—a raffishly-dressed, pompous figure—to provide a new 'bus for the villagers. Angry figures begin to plot darkly together.

Amongst these were D. A. Ebbage, who looked, spoke and moved like a fussy, active little woman; C. N. Jenkinson as a sharp, aloof Nurse; A. B. Gillanders, a simple-minded yokel, complete with trilby; D. W. Butterworth as a slow, ruminating Gaffer; R. S. Bellass as a dark and sinister Fred. D. M. Vale gave a feeling performance as the 'bus driver. S. M. Royle in cap and gown was a commanding figure as the village schoolmaster, and his learned dispute with the Lawyer (J. M. Quail) was amusing. Incidental humour here was provided by the Royston twins.

In the midst of these passionate scenes, A. R. Lyons as the Vicar was an able counsellor of moderation. His was a calm, wise performance.

The lines had been well learnt, and the characters were appropriately dressed. The groupings left much to be desired.

The play was a very promising effort for a young playwright. The last scene was especially effective: it was not only amusing in itself, but gave us, as a curtain line, a sound moral: 'Learning Latin does come in useful sometimes'.

This play, too, was produced by Mr. Jecny.

It is always a pleasure to welcome the Preparatory Department. Their carefully rehearsed productions give us enthusiastic acting and colourful stage-pictures.

In choice of plays, too, they have often triumphed. If this year's play came short of their best achievements, the reason is largely that the play chosen, "Puss in Boots", offered only limited opportunities.

A fanfare by P. Kerr and an announcement by D. Cole opened the play briskly, but the first scene dragged very badly, largely because there was insufficient dialogue to keep the action alive. The Miller (G. Kedferd) looked convincingly aged, but the bequest of his possessions to his three sons (A. Barnes, C. Burnside, R. Assar) was drawn out by too much repetitive dumb-show.

The third son got the cat—not a bad bargain, as one could see at once. D. Collings was soothing and cat-like throughout. 'A cat may look at a King', says the proverb. Collings did more: he treated the King and Court with an easy yet respectful familiarity. He was resourceful in devising the plan for his master's marriage; but his best moment was undoubtedly when in the last scene, he stood alone on the stage, with the courtiers timorously hiding, and entered the castle, to emerge triumphantly, after fearsome and prolonged convulsions off-stage.

The Ogre, well played by Gray, was a slow, lumbering figure. One would have liked to see more of him.

The Court scenes were disappointingly flat. This was a pity, for they were dressed with great care. The dialogue in these scenes did not help to raise the mournfulness of the courtiers, whose dance lacked grace and life. The Jester (C. Reich) made a valiant effort to entertain them, but he was coldly received.

The King (B. Gazzard) and Queen (S. Paton) and Princess (J. Bennet) were all obviously royal, and one felt especially drawn to the King by his appreciation of Puss—'Truly, a most noble quadruped'.

The production, staging and costuming was again in the capable hands of Mrs. Jecny.

A large and excited audience, out for enjoyment, greeted the last play of the season, "The Devil and Mr. Willoughby". This was presented by the Prefects, who had shed their black gowns to find a more congenial vocation in the medium of satirical farce.

Like James Bridie's "Mr. Bolfry", the play brings the devil into an up-to-date scene; like "Man and Superman", it includes a plausible case for Hell, with the interesting suggestion that Hitler in Hell is far more comfortable than on this post-war earth; like the medieval morality plays, it shows the struggle between good and evil for the human soul.

With all these literary affinities, the play was more akin in spirit to the light-hearted revue, in its allusive dialogue (advertising and television) and its lively stage action.

The central figure, Mr. Willoughby, was played by D. L. S. Paine, a harassed clerk collapsing under the strain of a strict office routine and the bossy curtness of a manager played with brisk efficiency by J. Davis.

Having gone to the Devil, Paine became a jaunty figure in sporting attire completed by yellow pull-over and—"the crown of my ambition"—yellow socks!

Aiding and abetting his defection was the Evil Angel played with macabre relish by W. D. West. W. G. Scarlett, a fellow clerk, contributed some cocky humour as the Overgrown Office Boy, and undertook at times the role of the advocate of repentance: but in this aspect he was too easily crushed by the Devil. Under the Devil's spell, J. D. E. Rayman as J. E. T. Morgan intoned his "What are your orders?" with an uncanny hollowness.

M. M. Kelsall was in turn wheedling and commanding as the Devil. His facial expressions matched his wide range of vocal power. His machinations were doomed to failure, though. The hand of Providence was strongly on the side of the erring Willoughby, and having sunk to the depths in agreeing to rob the safe, he is in the next minute heroically redeemed as he turns the gun on two real thieves who have adventitiously arrived with the same intent. These two gruesome figures (C. E. Bryans and P. J. Richards) were agreeably repulsive in appearance and manner. The Devil wearily admitted failure.

The cast was completed by K. S. Williams as a refined yet decorative Miss Drinkwater,

While the play was a deliberate laughter-raiser, it had coherence and wit, and had been well rehearsed. A riotous success.

The Debating and Literary Society

(THE DONNER UNION).

Since last going to press no fewer than ten meetings have been held.

On the 7th November, B. W. Derbyshire and A. B. Armstrong asked the House to support them in a motion "That we are all Hypocrites." Perhaps influenced by the current rehearsals of "Julius Caesar", T. W. Woodward (who was seconded by J. M. Broadbridge) opposed the motion with a flood of Shakespearian (or should we say Marlovian?) rhetoric.

The House, after bandying the Oxford Dictionary from hand to hand, eventually sustained the motion by 11 votes to 5. There were three abstentions.

The following Monday, Mr. Foyster led a discussion on "The Arts". Time prevented him from expanding the scope of his talk beyond the modern novel, which, he said, had developed along the lines of "Art for my sake". After dwelling particularly on the psychological aspect of modern literature, Mr. Foyster concluded that, whatever fresh forms it might take "All great art must give some delight, not by presenting a picture of a world which is itself beautiful, but by the justice of its vision."

We must thank Mr. Foyster for his stimulating comments.

We passed from the sublime to the ridiculous in December, carrying, in a joint-debate with Whalley Range a motion "That this House would rather be

a Contented Cow than a Discontented Philosopher." Miss D. Sheira and M. M. Kelsall led the proposition with urbanity. I. M. Stewart and Miss A. Mansfield pleaded the cause of Philosophy with passionate intensity.

The House chewed the cud and the biscuits

kindly provided by the girls.

We commenced the New Year with the usual balloon debate. I. Winnington read us "Man eats Snake" stories from The Children's Newspaper, D. D. A. Lamb maintained that The Sunday Express was an unbiased newspaper (one expects that Lord Beaverbrook turned an even deeper shade of blue) and C. J. F. Flint attempted to convert the House to love, knitting, gossip and food by attacking his fellow balloonists under the mysterious emblem of "ELLE." However, the House sustained the fourth speaker W. D. West, who spoke most sincerely in the praises of Miss Altrincham, and the Altrincham Guardian.

On the 23rd January, J. Davis and A. Bennett proposed "A Vote of No Confidence in the Present Government." E. W. Dickinson, opposing, sang the praises of the government in no uncertain terms, and J. E. O. Screen seconding added a few arguments to Dickinson's rhetoric.

The debate was hotly contested—the motion being carried by 11 votes to 7.

Having decided to change the government the House decided the following week to change men's fashions, carrying the motion by a substantial majority. A. E. Backhouse, and E. R. Birch, proposing, advocated one-piece suits and zip-fasteners (C. E. Bryans made some heart-felt comments on these latter). A. B. Armstrong and M. Johnson opposed.

The House, however, were not yet through with change. On the 13th of February, J. Cornes and T. W. Warnes proposed we should change our present form of constitution for a republic. The logic of their argument was carried through to its ultimate conclusion. The Queen did not sail to Nigeria, she flew—IN AN AEROPLANE. The House, however, showed itself to be in favour of the present system of government. The emotional ties of tradition transcended in every way the cramping logic of man's mind. C. Wilde and I. Sargen gained 12 votes to the proposition's 7.

The House may have been influenced in its choice by a talk the previous week from Mr. Dudman on the greatest of all republics, the United States. He answered impromptu a series of questions covering American politics, Television, National Parks, education, and sport. His comments were always shrewd and most illuminating. The House, justifiably, passed a warm and most sincere vote of thanks.

Two more meetings require mention. On February 8th we were invited to enjoy the hospitality of the Y.M.C.A. Rostrum Society in debating the motion "That Travel is the Best Form of Education." Members of Chetham's Hospital Debating Society were also present. I. M. Stewart spoke for the School in leading the opposition.

The motion was defeated by 36 votes to 30.

The other meeting was held in December, 1955. This was supposed to be a joint-playreading of Dodie Smith's "Dear Octopus" with Withington High School. Unfortunately, at the last minute, the girls found they were unable to attend. Members of the Society took over parts on the evening itself. Nevertheless the play was enjoyed by all.

B. W. Wilson was elected deputy-chairman this term in place of the retiring deputy-chairman, C. J. F. Flint. I. Sargen was elected to the vacancy thus created on the committee.

The Science Society

Again there is little to report. At the end of last term three members of the committee read papers to the Society. These were A. E. Backhouse, D. Gill and I. M. McShane.

On the 31st of January, a talk on the subject of "Microscopy of Textile Fibres" was delivered by Mr. J. S. Ford of the Shirley Institute. As the cold spell had then just started there was rather a low attendance, but all who came had a most enjoyable evening. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides, and all present had a most instructive lecture. After the lecture the members adjourned to the dining hall where the discussion was carried on while light refreshments were consumed.

On Wednesday, the 22nd of February, 15 intrepid members of the Meteorological Section went on an afternoon visit to the Meteorological Station at Ringway. The party, led by Mr. Gobie had a most interesting time learning of Russian export of cold air, and about a depression that is doing a most unprecedented thing, that is, moving westwards across the Atlantic.

The party went off well wrapped up for their expedition into the wilds of Cheshire as well they might for some of the apparatus they examined was situated outdoors.

In closing I should like to offer, on behalf of the Society, many thanks to Mrs. Faulkner, who came along on Tuesday, 31st January, and prepared the refreshments.

The Music Society

After some months of inactivity, the Society met on Saturday, November 12th, for the annual general meeting. The main items were the election of officers and a discussion of the form of the Society's meetings in the future. It was decided that stimulation of interest in music and not the gratification of the desire to be entertained was to be the basis of the Society's policy. The following elections were made:—Chairman, W. D. West. Secretary and Treasurer, D. F. Borland. Committee, M. Williams, P. J. Richards, T. D. Culbert, B. Bradbury, F. P. Haslam.

On Saturday, November 19th, Dr. Jecny gave a talk on the music of Puccini. Dr. Jecny first gave us his conception of Grand Opera, then a short life-history of Puccini, before taking each, in turn, of four of the composer's most famous operas, giving us the plot and illustrating it with records. The operas were La Bohème, La Tosca, Madame Butterfly and Manon Lescaut. We heard many well-known arias, notably "One Fine Day", "Your Tiny Hand is Frozen" and "Love and Music", sung by artistes of the calibre of Gigli and Joan Hammond. An enlightening and enjoyable presentation.

The Society next met on November 26th. P. G. Harrison gave a brief introduction before playing a record of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Princess Ida*, an opera with which we have become well acquainted since Christmas, 1954. The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company gave a very competent performance, though the singing of Victoria Sladen as Princess Ida was a weak point.

On December 3rd, F. P. Haslam gave a programme of music, devoted to Dvorak. Haslam spoke of the nostalgic quality of Dvorak's music. Both the pieces he played, Cello Concerto in B minor and the Symphony No. 5 in E minor (The "New World"), were composed during Dvorak's visit to America, and well illustrated the nostalgia. The programme was well received, by a good attendance.

On December 10th G. Turnbull gave a programme entitled "Sidney Bechet—Master of Improvisation". First we heard of this famous New Orleans clarinettist's life: of his humble beginnings in New Orleans: of his graduation from playing with the many famous personalities there; his connection with the Tommy Ladnier band; to his present environment in Paris, and his adoption of the Soprano Saxophone. The talk was illustrated

with records. Owing to the paucity of material to illustrate the Bechet story, there was time to play a record of some Dixieland music by Muggsy Spanier and his Band; an opportunity for the more discerning ears amongst the audience.

On 17th December, E. R. Birch introduced the composer and conductor, Gustav Mahler, for the first time, by means of a recording of the Symphony No. 1 in D minor (The Titan). Unfortunately very few members attended, but they were given an opportunity of coming to terms with this difficult and complex composer.

The Fencing Club

This term has seen the Club finally achieve its first aim—it has been possible to select a team to represent the School and a fixture list has been arranged. On January 23rd, members of the Manchester Sword Club were our visitors. R. A. Siddall, at the height of form, was the winner and J. Davis a close second. Next, on February 16th. the team visited Stockport Fencing Club for a foil match. The School represented by J. Davis, J. B. Wigglesworth, R. A. Siddall and I. M. Birtwistle, was defeated by 6 wins to 10 wins. This, the team felt was encouraging in view of its being the Club's first match. Before the end of term at least three more matches will be fought.

Last term's Beginners, now advanced to Intermediate status, continue to practise hard and a great improvement has been noted. D. Wallace, D. W. Grindey and D. R. Perry have been particularly keen and willing, and show considerable promise for the future.

It was decided at the beginning of term, that any member of the School should be allowed to apply for membership. Consequently a large number of Juniors have joined. Their enthusiasm and sustained interest, even in the arduous task of learning the basic strokes, augur well for the Club's future. They have realised that without a sound basis it is impossible to achieve a high standard in fencing technique, or even to benefit from the individual coaching, now part of the Intermediate course. This, we feel, has been our most successful term as yet. We hope, confidently, the next will be more successful.

The Christian Fellowship

At the end of last term, a large number of members of the Fellowship, were engaged in choir practices and attendances were consequently reduced.

Those able to be present gave a warm welcome, on November 24th, to Mr. E. H. P. Lucas, of Sale, who spoke about the Christian's Responsibility in the Home.

On December 1st, the Rev. J. M. Robinson, of Flixton, gave an informative talk on the union of the Church of South India and compared it with the dis-unity of the Church in this country. A lively discussion followed.

"Healing through Prayer" was the subject of the talk given, on December 8th, by the Rev. R. K. Walker, of the Albert Hall.

The theme during this term has been "The Christian Answer" and at each meeting a particular subject has been considered.

On January 12th, the Rev. E. Hardy, chairman of the Stockport District of the Methodist Church, drew comparisons between the aims and methods of Communism and of Christianity. Whilst the aim of Communism fell below that of Christianity, the zeal with which the Communist seeks to further his cause ought to serve as an example.

The Rev. G. Harman, Rector of Cheadle, kindly came to the school at very short notice on February 2nd and spoke about "Worry", showing how it could be overcome.

February 16th was the date chosen for a joint meeting with the Christian Union of Whalley Range High School and Mr. Branse A. Burbridge, turned our thoughts upon "War", its causes, its results and the attitude of the Christian towards it.

On February 23rd, the Rev. G. Farr, Tutor of the Manchester Baptist College, explained that of itself "Ambition" was not a bad thing. The ambition to serve the community was most worthy and he drew examples from the life of the apostle Paul before and after his conversion.

All members of the school are invited to the meetings of the Fellowship next term which will include not only the meeting at 4 p.m. one evening but also a lunch-time prayer-meeting in Room 30 and a Bible Study or discussion.

As we now look forward to a holiday at Easter, we ought to consider the claim of Him who died at the first Eastertime—

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; No man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14, 6.

The Leonardo da Vinci Society

Three meetings have been held since last we went to press.

On Tuesday, 13th December, at the Head-master's house, P. Clark read a paper on "Mozart" (an appropriate subject for the beginning of the bi-centenary celebrations).

P. Clark punctuated his account of the composer's life with records illustrating the different stages of Mozart's artistic development. In conclusion he stressed the formal excellence, and refreshing optimism which is rarely lacking in Mozart's music, despite the many hardships of his short life.

J. E. O. Screen read the first paper of the New Year at Dr. Jecny's house, on Friday, 23rd January. With a wealth of historical detail, and many actual specimens, he traced the development of English coinage from its pre-Roman origins up to the new mintage of the present reign. He was obviously deeply interested in his subject, and his enthusiasm brought alive for us what could so easily have been a mere catalogue of dates and figures.

The third meeting of the Society was held at the Headmaster's on Monday, 13th February. G. A. M. Wood read a paper on "Railways." Like J. E. O. Screen, Wood favoured the historical approach to his subject. Quoting from a wide variety of historical sources, and with a bewildering quantity of photographic illustration, he pursued the development of our railways from their origins, through the Victorian boom, and bust, up to the second World War. He was confident that British Railways would still continue to develop from strength to strength in the future. The Society as a whole, was, however, considerably less optimistic.

We must again thank Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Jecny for the provision of light refreshments.

C.C.F. Notes

The highlight of this term's C.C.F. activities was the visit to an Eaton Hall Passing Out Parade. Forty N.C.O.'s and senior cadets were invited and the exhibition of drill and the turn-out were impressive. An interesting "Brains' Trust" followed, where queries relating to National Service were answered by officers and officer cadets. After sampling army hot dogs and tea, we were shown a film, portraying the life an officer cadet leads at Eaton Hall.

The R.E.M.E. platoon have been disappearing at 3-20 p.m. every Friday afternoon, and it has been rumoured that they have been attending lectures at Failsworth and have applied their knowledge to a derelict internal combustion engine. They are now satisfied that they know everything about this method of propulsion and are now exexploring the mysteries of the archaic Signals equipment. The Signals platoon, after acquiring three new Assistant Instructors and five Classified Signallers, have retired to the seclusion of the more obscure rooms of the School.

The recruits are progressing well and are receiving instruction on the Range from Mr. Kyte, and should become proficient in shooting.

The candidates for Certificate "A" Part II are being carefully instructed by their platoon commanders and should be ready to pass this examination in the near future.

Finally we look forward to Camp, which will be held at Kinmel Park from the 19th to the 27th of July. All cadets, and especially recruits, are reminded that the opportunities, which Camp offers, are invaluable to their training and therefore all cadets should try to attend.

Rugby Football

FIRST XV.

Wed. Nov. 16 v. Birkenhead School A L 11-13

A comfortable win for the School seemed likely when after ten minutes our lead was eight points. C. E. Bryans ran through the defence for a good try for N. V. Barber to convert, and soon after N. V. Barber kicked a penalty goal. Another try seemed probable when B. A. Jackson was tackled heavily near the line. He injured his ankle and so was practically a passenger for the rest of the game.

Birkenhead School rallied strongly in the second half, and played hard, directing long kicks towards our weakened wing. They were awarded a try when a School defender failed to touch down properly. Another of their tries looked as though prompt tackling would have stopped it. Despite tireless efforts by C. E. Bryans, our only other score came in the second half from a dropped goal by M. Lord. It was unfortunate that the School side was weakened through B. A. Jackson's injury, but Birkenhead School did well to press home their advantage.

Wed. Nov. 23 v. Queen Elizabeth's School, Wakefield. H W 19—6

The School side rose to great heights in this match against a young, but promising opposition. We were fortunate in having a county referee for the occasion. N. V. Barber who played his usual robust and intelligent game opened the scoring with a good try, which was not converted. He followed it with a penalty goal. In the second half the School backs were moving with more speed and thrust than one had seen before. R. E. Williams and J. D. Hague sent out a good service from some good quick heeling. C. E. Bryans made a good opening for C. G. McDiarmid, who scored far out, and shortly afterwards P. J. Richards burst through on his own. The last School score came from a good run by K. J. Hinson, who gave an inside pass to T. J. Bush. N. V. Barber converted the last two tries.

It was good to see the School pack getting round so well in the loose and heeling so quickly. The Wakefield side was always fighting and potentially dangerous against our heavier side. G. S. Phillips, promoted to replace the injured B. A. Jackson, showed himself a good footballer and excellent in defence.

Sat. Nov. 26 v. Sale R.U.F.C. Schools XV. H W 15—12

This was a satisfactory win. Our visitors played good football, though at times some of them seemed determined unnecessarily and unsuccessfully to get the better of the referee. T. D. Culbert who played a very good game scored the first try when he took an inside pass from J. D. E. Rayman, and the last one when he caught the Sale scrumhalf behind his own line. N. V. Barber kicked two penalty goals, and P. J. Richards scored a good try from a typical burst from the loose.

Sale fought back very hard after being several points down and nearly succeeded in winning. The defence of the School backs was not always as safe as it should have been.

Wed. Nov. 30 v. Wallasey Grammar School
H L 11-14

This was a fast open game but disappointing for the School side. The forwards got more than a fair share of the ball and the backs looked as though they might score on numerous occasions. Harassing tactics by the opposition wing-forwards, however, upset the passing rhythm of the backs and more than a few passes were badly given and not taken.

The School was in the lead for much of the game, but unaccountably lost command in the closing stages. C. E. Bryans scored two tries, one of which was converted, and N. V. Barber kicked a penalty goal.

Sat. Dec. 7 v. Merchant Taylors' School

This was a robust game in which the School side, though always looking dangerous, failed to finish off a number of promising movements. In fact no try was scored by either side, and the game was lost by two penalty goals.

The half-backs did not have an easy day and were harassed continually by spoiling wing-forwards. C. E. Bryans again made most strenuous efforts to break open the defence and on several occasions very nearly succeeded. The Merchant Taylors' defence however held out. Their tackling and prompt falling on the ball were exemplary.

Though the School side lost the game, it had much of the play and honours were evenly shared.

The keenness and enthusiasm of the side this season has made it a pleasure to coach. The forwards after certain early troubles settled down into a fast and heavy pack, ably led by N. V. Barber, who later played in the Caeshire County Schoolboys XV. P. J. Richards, the side's vice-captain, showed himself well-suited to the wing-forward position and was one of the chief try-scorers. The rest of the forwards all played vigorously and well, and as the strength of the pack lay in its teamwork, it would be invidious to pick out any others for individual mention. An unfortunate injury to R. B. Edge in a practice probably robbed him of his colours, but brought in R. Dearden who proved an admirable substitute.

M. Lord, who was moved to full back early on in the season, was slow and too often out of position; but partially made up for this by having a safe pair of hands and a long kick with either foot. R. E. Williams at scrum-half was always sound, and J. D. Hague improved in defence and showed flashes of real promise in attack. C. E. Bryans, who captained the side well, was always quite tireless in defence and on his day very penetrating

in attack. J. D. E. Rayman well deserved his place on the wing and if he can learn to tackle more decisively and beat his man on the outside may go far. The other backs were all promising and will, it is hoped, form the basis of a really effective line next season.

Colours were awarded to:-

C. E. Bryans (Captain), P. J. Richards (Vice-Captain), N. V. Barber, J. Collinson, K. J. Hinson, C. H. Jarman T. D. Culbert, T. J. Bush, R. E. Williams, J. D. Hague, J. D. E. Rayman, C. G. McDiarmid, M. Lord.

Matches Won 6; Lost 6; Points for 192; Agst. 100,

SECOND XV.

The latter part of the season was not as successful as the first. This was mainly due to scrummage difficulties, the promotion of G. S. Phillips to the 1st XV, and injuries which made frequent changes necessary. A. C. Morris settled down as a reliable full-back, and G. H. Stockdale and T. W. Warnes played well in the backs. B. Cartwright was an excellent link at fly-half despite a severe injury to his partner, T. V. Jones, which kept him out of the final matches. The problems of the pack were solved by bringing T. Toon into the front row and by playing J. Davis and A. E. Backhouse in the second row.

The game against Birkenhead School was hard fought between equal sides and a draw seemed a fair result. The Wakefield pack outweighed ours and consequently gained more of the ball. The game was really lost, however, by weak tackling and a failure of the forwards to combine in the loose.

At Wallasey the side played some attractive football and won convincingly. The final match against Merchant Taylors' School was a fitting end to the season. After an indifferent first half in which the visitors scored their points, the School forwards combined excellently to fight back and almost win the game. The back play was not up to its usual standard, owing to the aggressive marking by the opposition.

Colours were awarded to:-

A. C. Morris, G. H. Stockdale, G. S. Phillips, A. M. Fish, T. W. Warnes, T. V. Jones, B. Cartwright, J. B. Wigglesworth, T. W. Woodward, J. Davis (Captain), A. E. Backhouse, R. B. Edge, T. L. Venables, G. H. Lynn, R. A. Dearden, B. A. Jackson.

RESULTS.

v.—Queen Elizabeth's School,	D	6— 6
v.—Wallasey Grammar School V.—Merchant Taylors' School,	L W	
Croshy	I	6 0

Played 10; Won 6; Drawn 1; Lost 3. Points For 151. Points Against 57.

UNDER 15.

The following fixtures have been played since the last magazine went to press:-

Nov. 16 v.—Birkenhead School Wed.

HL 0-19 Wed. Nov. 23 v.-Moseley Hall Grammar

School. A W Wed.

Nov. 30 v.-Wallasey Grammar

School. A D Sat. Dec. 3 v.-Merchant Taylors'

School, Crosby. A 0 - 23

Wed. Dec. 7 v.—Chetham's Hospital. 11-6

AW Thus the record for the season was: Won 5; Drawn 2; Lost 4.

In addition to those previously mentioned, M. A. Kerr also played on the U.15 XV.

HOUSE RUGBY.

The remarkably fine weather during the Christmas term enabled the House League to be played with very few cancellations. The pitches were in very good condition right through the season and, as a result, some good football was seen, though a great deal needs to be done to improve the basic skills. Passing is, after all, the basis of the game and the number of boys seen passing correctly was surprisingly small. Tackling and falling also need a lot of attention, and here the Houses can do a great deal to improve the general standard by making use of team players to coach the juniors.

Dalton won the League by a clear 24 points followed by Whitworth, Heywood, Byrom and Gaskell in that order, with only ten points separating them. Fraser were placed last and it is hoped that they will improve on that position next year.

The House Knock-Outs, as usual, aroused a great deal of enthusiasm and resulted in some really good football. Dalton had another victory though mention must be made of Heywood who were badly affected by injury. In the Junior Competition Dalton were again victorious.

The season concluded with a seven-a-side tournament played under dreadful conditions. This was the School's first contact with small side rugby, but it is hoped to make it an annual affair. Dalton rounded off a very successful season with another well-deserved victory.

Lacrosse

FIRST TEAM.

Once again, as was the case last year, frost, snow, and fog have interfered with Lacrosse. Only five matches have been played so far, and on grounds only just fit for play.

In the circumstances, the team has not quite reached the standard of play expected of it. The material is good, and would have reached a higher standard if it had been possible to have more practice. Only in the last game has the defence, consisting of M. Lord, H. F. Bickerton, G. H. Stockdale, P. J. Richards, and N. V. Barber, shown the style of play we expect from a School teamto mark their men closely, clear safely with short passes, and fight hard for the ball on the ground.

A promising goalkeeper has been found in A. Roberts, and C. G. McDiarmid has been a success at centre. He is fast and a good shot, but should show more determination in getting the ball at the Face.

The attacks, led by C. E. Bryans are all good 'crosse handlers, but miss being a first-class unit because much of their passing has been very bad. Too often passes come to the feet of the receiver instead of shoulder high. They are not accurately directed to the 'crosse, and are not fast enough. A fast pass is easier to take than a slow one. Passes should invariably be given to the nearest man, and not to the next man but one, and the receiver should not be behind his defence coverer. Too many passes have been tried past two, and some-times three defence men. This is fatal. Any man who receives the ball, and is not in a position to score himself, should be ready instantly to give a quick return pass, or to find immediately another attack who has run into position. R. E. Williams is our best giver of passes.

We are again in the Final of the Lancashire Junior Cup, as the result of a very fine game against the Old Hulmeians Extra "A" team in the semi-final, when the School team played its best game.

FIRST TEAM MATCHES.

Jan. 14 v.-Stockport Grammar School

The opposition was not very strong, and the attack was able to score without playing well. Passes were long and slow, the goal was crowded, the running was half-hearted, and return passes were conspicuous by their absence.

Team:—T. J. Bush, M. Lord, G. S. Phillips, H. S. Bickerton, G. H. Stockdale, P. J. Richards, C. G. McDiarmid, J. D. Hague, C. E. Bryans, T. W. Warnes, R. E. Williams, B. Cartwright.

Jan. 21 v.—Heaton Mersey Guild H L 4—12

This game, against a strong and experienced Second Division team, showed up the weakness of our attack. The natural advantages of speed and fitness against older players were not used, and much of the passing was slow and inaccurate, and often to the wrong man. On a ground frozen hard and made slippery by rain and sleet, the Guild shot hard and often, while our shooting was not good enough to trouble a first-rate goalkeeper.

A. Roberts replaced Bush in goal, and N. V. Barber, who had been absent, came in instead of Phillips.

Jan. 28 v.-Manchester Grammar School H W 16 - 6

We scored two quick goals, and then, becoming over-confident, relaxed. The defence failed to cover each other, fumbled frequently, and cleared carelessly, while the attack did nothing. Manchester led 4—2 at the end of the first quarter. Then the defence settled down, and we led 7-5 at half time. We scored steadily in the second half, but the attack was not playing well, the passing again being at fault. A. Brooks replaced Cartwright at First Home.

Feb. 4 v.—Cheadle Hulme School A L 3-7

Foothold was very precarious on the steeply sloping pitch, as rain fell on the frozen surface. The defence adapted themselves commendably, but were not always able to mark closely enough when their men were near enough to shoot. The defence did their part, and the game was lost by the attack. Easy chances were missed by shooting hurriedly to avoid the attention of nearby defenders, and some of the attack were more willing to check than to go for the ball. We are looking forward to our next fixture, when we hope to do better.

Feb. 11 v.-Old Hulmeians Extra "A". Semi-Final, Lancashire Junior Cup H W 13-5

In an attempt to speed up the attack, the Homes were changed round, with Williams at Third, Brooks at Second, and Warnes at First, but at first there was no improvement. Intermediate men were cut out by long passes, which the strong and experienced Old Boys' defence intercepted easily. In spite of hard work by the defence we were soon 3—1 down. By precept and example, Bryans roused the attack, and the faster rate of play wore down the Old Boys. We finally got right on top when McDiarmid quite outran the opposing centre, who tired noticeably. Quick, short passes made openings, and there were even some return passes.

We were glad to welcome as referee Mr. R. E. Howard, for many years a prominent member of the Old Hulmeians' first team.

SECOND TEAM.

This term's weather has been the worst for several years, and it has been difficult to arrange adequate practice. It has also caused more illness than usual, so the team has suffered frequent changes. In spite of this, the standard of play has been fairly good. The defence has done well, and the attack has played well in some games. They have not been able to adapt themselves to difficult ground conditions, nor have they realised the value of hard long shots when the ground is hard. The shooting generally has been indifferent.

Five matches have been played, three won and two lost. The defeat by Cheadle Hulme School was entirely due to lack of shooting by the attack, who missed many chances.

J. Davis has been a keen Captain, and has received excellent support from the rest of the team. The frequent changes have revealed the strength of our reserves.

RESULTS.

Jan. 14 v. Audenshaw G. S. 1st A 13— 6 19— 0 W Jan. 28 v. Manchester G. S. ... A W Feb. 4 v. Cheadle Hulme School H Feb. 8 v. Audenshaw G. S. 1st H Feb. 11 v. South Manchester 'B' A L 1-4 W 15-

. 4-

Colours have been awarded to J. Davis (Capt.), R. B. Woolham, B. Cartwright, G. S. Phillips, A. C. Morris, A. F. Pitty, R. B. Edge, G. F. Warrell, W. A. Bradley, J. L. Williams, J. H. Birtwistle, A. Kynaston.

The following also have played: -D. W. Lomas, H. M. Stockwell, J. Collinson, A. Roberts, A. Brooks, A. J. Woodward.

UNDER 15 TEAM.

This team, nearly the same as last year's Under 14, has played only four matches. Three provided easy victories, and they were rather unlucky to lose the fourth against Cheadle Hulme. The game was played at Cheadle Hulme, diagonally across the hill, and the difficult ground was made worse by rain on a frozen surface. The School had established a lead of 6—2, when one of the opposing attacks retired with a sprained ankle. The loss of a defence man to balance the sides left our defence too open, and Cheadle Hulme won a narrow victory by 8—7.

The team has again reached the final of the Juniors' Challenge Shield, and will again meet Cheadle Hulme School.

RESULTS.

Jan. 14 v	Disley Juniors A	W	17-0
Jan. 21 v	. Manchester G. S A	W	9-0
Jan. 28 v	. Manchester G. S H	W	19-0
Feb. 4	v. Cheadle Hulme School		
	A	L	7-8

Colours have been awarded to the team, which has been unchanged:—J. B. Kershaw (Captain), W. D. Yale, G. P. Mainwaring, H. R. McCallum N. M. Parr, R. H. Eldridge, G. M. Geary, M. P. Robinson, B. Wienholt, M. H. F. Cocker, P. Bardsley, and F. P. Davies.

UNDER 14 TEAM.

This team has suffered more than any other from the bad weather, as being quite inexperienced, they needed more practice than the others. In particular they have to learn more of the tactics of the game. They are keen and nearly all handle well, but in their enthusiasm the attack tends to rush on goal and crowd it, while the defence, equally enthusiastic, chase their men all over the field, and leave the front of goal wide open. There is plenty of promising material available, which will develop with experience, and it must be remembered that the team's opponents have been Under 15 sides.

RESULTS.

Jan. 14 v. Audenshaw G. S. U.15 H. Jan. 21 v. Stockport Juniors H	H V	N 18— 3 L 4— 7
Jan. 29 v. Manchester G. S. U.15 2nd A		
Feb. 4 v. Cheadle Hulme School U.15 2nd H	ı v	W 10-0
Feb. 11 v. South Manchester Juniors F	H]	L 4—8

The team has been:—M. Billcliff (Captain), J. S. Gallagher, M. J. Friend, A. S. Addison, D. Paton, I. M. Lawless, D. W. Robinson, M. A. Kerr, J. B. Parkinson, B. Hayes, A. K. C. Rodgers, and P. Barnes, J. G. Temple has also played.

Cross-Country Running

This term it has been possible for a limited number of Senior boys to choose Cross-Country Running as their official games activity on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and we now have about fifty runners.

In consequence our whole field of activity has been expanded, and we are at last able to hold regular fixtures.

It has not been easy to find a course near to the School, and we are unfortunately unable to start from and finish there. The course eventually chosen starts in Hardy Lane, Chorlton, crosses the Mersey, and after skirting Sale finishes at Jackson's Boat. Through the kindness of Chorlton Cricket Club we are able to use their pavilion, for changing on Wednesday afternoons.

We have been able to field a Senior Team regularly, and this term have quite a number of Under 16 fixtures as well.

D. L. Watkin has been appointed Captain of the Senior Team and R. G. Harrison Captain of the Under 16 Team. We have on occasion had the services of C. E. Bryans and W. D. Yale, both outstandingly good runners, and when they are available we have a very strong team indeed. The keenness of all members of the teams has been very pleasing, and the consistently high standard of running, the result of hard training, of J. G. Roberts and K. P. Geddes deserves special mention.

We have entered two teams for the Northern Schools Championship at Lyme Park on March 17th and are looking eagerly forward to that date.

RESULTS.

October 19th. v. CHEADLE HULME SCHOOL (Away) School won by 37 points to 42. School—1 C. E. Bryans, 3 D. L. Watkin, 5 J. G. Roberts, 6 K. P. Geddes, 9 D. S. Armstrong, 13 D. K. Swindells.

Cheadle Hulme—2, 4, 7, 8, 10 & 11. Time: 15 mins. 34 secs. (a course record). Distance approx. 3 miles. November 23rd. v. CHEADLE HULME SCHOOL (Away) Cheadle Hulme won by 21 points to 36 (5 to count).

Cheadle Hulme-1, 2, 5, 6 & 7.

School—3 J. G. Roberts, 4 K. P. Geddes, 8 P. T. C. Gutteridge, 10 D. K. Swindells, 11 C. H. F. Turner.

December 17th. v. Bury Grammar School (Home) School won by 11 points to 30 (4 to count). School—1 C. E. Bryans, 2 W. D. Yale, 3 J. G. Roberts, 5 K. P. Geddes.

Bury Grammar School—4, 7, 9 & 10. Time: 20 mins. 30 secs. Distance 4—4½ miles.

January 18th. v. STAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL (Away) School won by 29 points to 49.

School—1 W. D. Yale, 2 D. L. Watkin, 3 J. G. Roberts, 4 K. P. Geddes, 9 P. T. C. Gutteridge, 10 D. S. Armstrong.

Stand Grammar School—5, 6, 7, 8, 11 & 12.

Time: 22 mins. 36 secs. Distance 3\frac{3}{4} miles: hilly country.

January 21st v. Bury Grammar School (Away) Seniors. School won by 25 points to 32 (5 to count). School—3 J. G. Roberts, 4 K. P. Geddes, 5 D. L. Watkin, 6 D. S. Armstrong, 7 P. T. C. Gutteridge.

Bury Grammar School—1, 2, 8, 10 & 11.

Time 24 mins. Distance 4 miles approx.

Under 16. School won by 23 points to 33 (5 to count).

School—1 R. G. Harrison, 3 G. Field, 4 A. K. Geddes, 6 J. Whitmore, 9 R. C. Stoker.

Bury Grammar School-2, 5, 7, 8 & 11.

January 28th. v. Manchester Athletic Club (Away) Seniors. M.A.C. won by 23 points to 58. M.A.C.—1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7.

School—5 J. G. Roberts, 8 D. S. Armstrong, 9 D. L. Watkin, 10 K. P. Geddes, 11 P. T. C. Gutteridge, 15 A. C. Day.

Under 16. M.A.C. won by 24 points to 62.

M.A.C.—1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 8.

School—5 R. G. Harrison, 7 G. Field, 10 G. B. Brundrit, 11 A. K. Geddes, 14 R. C. Stoker, 15 K. Kingham.

First XI Cricket Fixtures, 1956

Wed. May 2 Hulme Hall	Home
Sat. May 5	
Wed. May 9 Cheadle Hulme School	Home
Sat. May 12 Manchester Grammar	
School	Home
Wed. May 16 Bolton School	Away
Fri. May 18 Manchester C. COld	Trafford
	THE THE
Sat. May 19) Wed. May 23 } Whitsun Holiday.	
Sat. May 26	
Tues. May 29 Queen Elizabeth G. S.	
Wakefield	Home
Wed. May 30 Wallasey Grammar	
School	Away
Sat. June 2 House Matches.	
Wed. June 6 Staff	Home
Sat. June 9 King Edward VII School,	
Lytham	Home
Wed. June 13	
Sat. June 16 House Matches.	
Wed. June 20 Whalley Range C.C	Away
Sat. June 23 King's School,	
Macclesfield	Home
Wed. June 27	- 4
Sat. June 30 Cheadle Royal	Away
Wed. July 4	
Sat. July 7 House Matches.	
Wed. July 11	
Sat. July 14 Merchant Taylors' School	Home
Wed. July 18 Birkenhead School	Away

The Hulme Lads' Club

This year's collection amounted to £762 8s. 10d., and is the second highest total we have ever achieved. There are several outstanding features, of which the most remarkable is the record of the Head Boy, P. J. Richards (6L.U.). This year he collected £61 2s. 6d., and this is the eighth year in which he has collected over £60. Before he started this great run, he was in the Prep. and Lower 1, so his total collection must be nearly £600. This is a record which has never been approached, and will certainly be very difficult to equal. As this is Richard's last year at School, an extra responsibility will fall on the rest of the School next year.

Of the form collections, 1B was the best with £61 14s. 6d., but the First, Second, and Third Forms all did well. There was considerable variation among the other forms, and our total could be increased if all forms made the same effort.

The Preparatory Department, with £107 12s. 0d., again improved on its previous best, and their excellent work each year is an invaluable contribution to our effort.

We also wish to thank Mr. Pentelow, who for several years has undertaken the onerous task of collecting and counting all the money as it has been brought in.

FORM TOTALS.

Preparatory		s. d.
Preparatory		2 0
		7 4
10		4 6
•		5 8
A.D.		8 0
237	38	5 3
24	35 1	5 0
3A	32	9 9
3B	31 1	1 0
4A	11	0 3
48	21	2 9
4Y	34	3 2
5A	14 10	6 0
5S	20 10	0 0
5X	27 12	2 0
5Y	15	3 0
6L.M.	5 10	6 0
6L.S	18	1 0
6M.L.	5 10	0 6
6L.L.	7 19	9 0
6C.L	2 3	
6U.M	3 7	
6U.S	29 8	
6M.U	21 3	
6L.U	65 9	
6C.U.	5 19	
	- 1	U

The Headmaster has received the following letter from the President of the Club.

14th February, 1956.

"Dear Mr. Bird,

"Once more I have the pleasure and privilege of writing to thank the School for another magnificent annual collection in aid of the Hulme Lads' Club. The fact that the sum collected has come

within a few pounds of the School's record total is particularly gratifying at a time when money is by no means as easy to collect as it was a few years ago. The excellent total of £762 8s. 10d. is very solid evidence of the really hard work which has been put in on behalf of the Club by the boys and by the staff.

"Will you please convey the most sincere thanks of all members of the Club to all the boys who took part in this magnificent collection and to all the members of your staff who organized it? Without this annual help the Club would be quite unable to carry on.

Sincerely yours,

D. LLOYD GRIFFITHS."

February Day

Over the streets the evening haze settles down with the chimney smoke. Like a benediction of death the black sulphur specks float down through the still air.

The wilting hedge-rows, tired of the ceaseless struggle of ever being green, turn grey as the smoke spots settle on them. The grass, weary of a life in twenty foot squares amongst a jungle of concrete, yields its freshness to the greyness of the powder. The whiteness of snow humped over the cold slabs of turned earth in bare flower-borders where the sun has not reached all day, serves merely to throw into relief the grit which has descended upon it.

The road stretches away, a convergence of parallels, into the haze. Out of the thickening evening comes the mechanical clip-clop of a muffled passer-by as he hurries past the hedgerows. He never turns his head but keeps straight on, as if the fading repetition of house-fronts and hedge-rows had numbed him into a senseless half-consciousness.

As if awakened by the noise, a shaggy, pinknosed mongrel, coming out of a gateway, sniffs at a lamp-post, flings his hind leg up, then scuttles away through another gate.

Now even the houses are yielding to the benediction of the soot. Their once bright Corporation green paint is merging into the oneness of the grey around. All individuality is lost. Only shapes remain.

In the gutter a deserted cigarette packet is stirred by a momentary breeze, and scraping over the grit for a second, settles on top of a grid.

The lamps suddenly come on.

The closing compass on one's vision is expanded. A string of bead lights point themselves along the street in two parallel lines. The nearby lamps cast a ring of light on the pavement, and glow faintly on the fronts of the houses.

The house lights are also coming on. At a window, a stretching housewife tugs her curtain close as if she would shut herself off from the night in the yellow box of her parlour. But faintly through the curtains the bulb-light still steals out into the evening.

Now is the time when the worker returns to his home. The tired typist, guided by the beacons of the lamps, hastens towards her fish and chips and evening's Television.

Two would-be handsome young men, arms linked, hair weighty with Brylcreem, slouch along yelling "Rock Island Line" up at the chimney pots. And unseen, from the chimney pots, the black soot seeps into their blackened lungs.

The frost settles. A sudden glint and sparkle comes from the roadway. There is a keener nip in the air. The moon will soon be up.

Across a lighted window a tangled tracery of bare tree branches twists itself in directionless confusion.

It grows colder. The stars are out everywhere in the sky, a chaotic arrangement of street-lamps a thousand light years away. If only the Corporation could get official sanction, and the scientists would co-operate, man could make his greatest conquest and arrange the heavens in streets and avenues as well.

It is all this private enterprise which holds things up.

M. M. KELSALL, 6 iii A.

The Child's Penalty

"Tis safer to be that which we destroy
Than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy."

The snow had hardly ceased to fall and Nature's shroud lay gently covering a scene of death and destruction. No sound shattered the deathly hush; no movement disturbed the calm serenity of that motionless world. Man had paid his penalty.

After every three or four gingerly taken paces down the once main street, I stopped, and scrutinising minutely every nook and cranny in the mass of rubble, listened tentatively for the faintest sound which would prove that death did not reign quite everywhere. Hardly daring to breathe for fear of missing that sound, I heard nothing beyond the groan of my aching heart. How long I had wretchedly picked my way among the bricks, the slates, the glass and the charred remains, I do not know. Why had I not been taken also? Why had I been left alone, without companion, man nor beast? What cruel hand had shielded me alone from the fate of all mankind? How, ... why, ... who. . . . when? were questions my bewildered and aching brain asked itself. The answer came back quite distinctly . . . silence.

No voice replied; no hand guided. Tattered and bleeding from numerous scratches on my mudstained arms and face, I felt no cold; tears had frozen on my cheeks, blood on my feet, yet these were not the causes of the pain I felt so deeply.

Dusk fell quickly as if eager to shield immortal eyes from a scene so cruel, so macabre. Tired and worn from long hours of aimless wandering, I found a sheltered 'cave' made in the rubble by three huge smoke-blackened beams, and covering my body with what was once a carpet, sobbed myself to sleep.

My sleep was troubled. Men, women and children, their faces and bodies hideously burned came screaming through my dreams. Dogs, horses and other helpless beasts, bolted terror-stricken to their end. Houses, shops, factories and churches crumbled in the blazing inferno and spread their shapes in billions of fragments over the countryside. Turmoil turned their ghostly visions over and over in my mind . . . I awoke little rested.

No fresh snow had fallen, but a slight breeze now swept the barren heap of desolation and ruin, to bear the message of death across the sea. The temperature was well below freezing point, and slightly more composed than on the previous day. I searched among the bricks and chimney pots for extra clothing. Before long I came across what looked, but for the dust and rubble, as if it had two days ago been the site of a tailor's and outfitter's shop. I found an overcoat, less charred and torn than the rest and eagerly donned it; my scarf I tied round my head to protect my ears, and garbed in this fashion, once more set out upon my errand in search of life.

Bitter words were now written on all I looked upon. "A deterrent for war . . . safeguard to mankind . . . its peaceful uses . . . no country would