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Number 1

JANUARY, 1956

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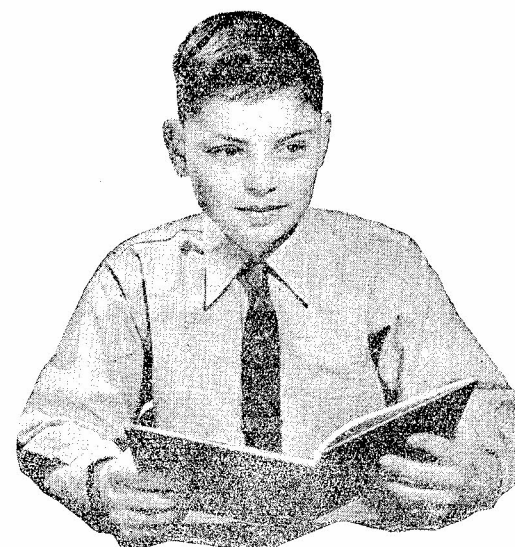
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LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE

VOL. LXIV

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EDITORIAL

When questions of education are discussed and decided, due consideration is generally given to facilities for academic study, but it is often the case that little or no attention is paid to the other aspects of school life. This is hardly surprising, for in the present day, secondary-school education is widely regarded as a preparation for a specific career, and the value of a course of study assessed according to the income it may enable the student to earn. It is natural then that those who decide educational policy should consider intellectual learning of prime importance. But a good school should educate morally as well as intellectually and should produce, not merely learned men, but good citizens.

For this reason, in any system of education provision should be made for the growth and successful functioning of societies and clubs within the school, for such extra-mural activities are not, as the term might suggest, mere amusements; they have an important part to play in secondary education. In offering members of the school the opportunity to pursue their interests, to acquire knowledge and an understanding of the arts, and, by taking part in the organisation of societies, to learn to bear responsibility, they allow personality and character to develop in a manner quite impossible in the class-room. Some can find this education elsewhere than in school, but its provision there enables all who wish to benefit by it, and encourages the feeling of membership of the school, which gives rise to a sense of duty and responsibility. A school must impart this sense of responsibility if it is to educate its members morally as well as intellectually.

The growth of such a corporate spirit can be assisted, to no small extent, by the School Magazine. In providing a means whereby the ideas of individuals can be communicated to all, and by giving a full report of the varied activities of the school, it acts as a unifying element and fosters that pride in the school and feeling of membership, which school societies produce and without which no school can be truly successful.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

During the afternoon of December 21st, the last day of term, the following Service of Lessons and Carols was held in the School Hall:—

<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	- - - - -	The Choir.
<i>Hark! the herald-angels sing</i>	- - - - -	The School.
FIRST LESSON	- - - - -	A Scholar—R. M. P. Quilliam (3A).
<i>Ding, Dong! merrily on high</i>	- - - - -	The Choir.
SECOND LESSON	- - - - -	A Pro-prefect—J. E. Sharp (6Am2).
<i>Angels, from the realms of glory</i>	- - - - -	The School.
<i>O little town of Bethlehem</i>	- - - - -	The Choir.
THIRD LESSON	- - - - -	A Prefect—E. J. N. Wilson (6ASc).
<i>Rocking Carol</i>	- - - - -	The Choir.
<i>The first Noel</i>	- - - - -	The School.

FOURTH LESSON	-	-	-	-	<i>The Head Boy</i> —S. G. Norris (6a).
<i>Past three o'clock</i>	-	-	-	-	The Choir.
<i>In the bleak mid-winter</i>	-	-	-	-	The Choir.
FIFTH LESSON	-	-	-	-	<i>A Master</i> —Mr. A. V. Preece.
<i>O come all ye faithful</i>	-	-	-	-	The School.
SIXTH LESSON	-	-	-	-	<i>The Headmaster</i>
<i>Lo, the sound of youthful voices</i>	-	-	-	-	The School.

THE BENEDICTION.

Organist—Mr. L. Morgan *At the Piano*—J. R. Parry (6Am1)
 Conductor of the Choir—P. A. Kennerley (6Am2).

CHAT ON THE CORRIDOR

It is with deep regret that we learned in June of the death in hospital of Mr. S. J. Elliott, within a few days of his 79th birthday. A native of Kent, after teaching for several years in the South of England, Mr. Elliott came, in September 1905, to join the Staff of the Liverpool Institute, where he remained until his retirement in April, 1941. The many Old Boys who learned their Geography through his capable teaching will remember "Piggy" with affection, for he had a kindly nature, and was a very human man, even when he chided. His colleagues on the Staff knew him as a man with a quiet, but very keen sense of humour—some of his Cockney stories were masterpieces—a great lover of cricket and a keen gardener. He was always cheerful and ever ready to help others in any way that he could. It can truly be said that he was a man whom it is good to have known.

We also have to record the death, in September, of Mr. E. A. Hughes, one of our laboratory stewards. Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and daughter.

We welcome to the School the following new masters, who joined the Staff in September: Mr. Axon, B.A. (Leeds), Mr. Evans, F.R.C.O., L.R.C.M., Mr. A. L. Goodall, D.P.E. (York), Mr. R. D. Plant, B.Sc. (Birmingham), Mr. J. Ramsden, D.P.E. (Loughborough) and M. Gebler, of Metz, who will be with us until July.

To Mr. C. P. Mann, who left us in the summer to take up another teaching appointment, we offer best wishes for success and happiness.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Durband on the birth of a son.

Speech Day was held on Wednesday, 14th December, in the Philharmonic Hall, when the prizes were distributed by Dr. Ronald Hope, O.B.E., M.A., Director of the Seafarers' Education Service.

Performances of the School Play, "Julius Caesar", will be given in the School Hall on the evenings of 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th February, 1956.

On 7th July last a number of boys from the Senior forms of the School attended a conference held by the Council of Education in World Citizenship. The subject discussed was "South America", and the speakers were Mr. Julian Duguid, author and broadcaster, and Dr. Comacho. The Headmaster took the Chair at the afternoon session.

During the term we were pleased to welcome a party of Dutch school-teachers, who were enjoying the hospitality of the Liverpool Education Authority, in return for similar hospitality extended to Liverpool teachers at Amsterdam some months before.

On 15th November, members of the French section of the Sixth Form saw at the Royal Court a production of Molière's "L'Avare", given by La Troupe Française.

Mr. E. T. Halliday (1910-16) has been invited by the Liverpool Corporation to paint a portrait of the Queen for the Town Hall.

Mr. M. T. Owen (1925-33) has been appointed Deputy Director of Education for Hull.

We congratulate the following on their academic achievements:

S. G. Norris, Open Scholarship in Classics at University College, Oxford.

K. R. Barbour, Minor Scholarship in Mathematics at Trinity College, Cambridge.

P. Hallam, Minor Scholarship in Mathematics at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

J. R. Parry, Exhibition in Modern Languages at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

As we go to press we learn with regret of the death of Mr. F. W. H. Groom, M.A., a member of the Staff from 1894 to 1917, and Vice-Principal of the School from 1917 until his retirement in 1932.

An appreciation of the late Mr. Groom will appear in the next issue of the Magazine.

SPEECH DAY

Speech Day was held on Wednesday, December 14th, 1955, in the Philharmonic Hall, when the prizes were distributed by Dr. Ronald Hope, O.B.E., M.A., Director of the Seafarers' Education Service. After the address of welcome, delivered in Latin by S. G. Norris, the Head Boy of the School, the Headmaster rose to present his annual report.

He began by referring to the problem of over-crowding—in September there were more than a thousand pupils in the School—and to the inadequacy of the existing laboratory accommodation. The shortage of science teachers continued, but despite these difficulties, he was very satisfied with the School's record of attainment during the year. He went on to say that high academic success was the result of determination, perseverance and a willingness on the part of Sixth formers to sacrifice many of those things which boys of their age considered pleasures. Academic distinction was the reward of character as well as of ability.

The Headmaster paid tributes to the Chairman, the Governors, the Vice-Principal and Staff, and referred with regret to the deaths of Mr. J. A. Owen, and Mr. S. J. Elliott, former masters of the School, and Mr. E. A. Hughes, one of the School laboratory stewards.

After the rendering by the School Choir of three songs arranged by H. S. Robertson ("All in the April Evening", "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot", and "De Battle ob Jericho") the Chairman of the Governors, Mr. Brian Heathcote, reminded the boys that young men who wished to gain positions of responsibility must possess, in addition to the necessary academic qualifications, discipline, perseverance and team spirit. All these qualities were unconsciously acquired day by day in school, when they were being prepared to serve their own generation.

The School then sang "O Peaceful England" from "Merric England", by Edward German, and "Gendarmes' Duet" from "Genevieve de Brabant", by Offenbach. Immediately afterwards the prizes were distributed by Dr. Hope. In his address, Dr. Hope urged the boys to postpone for as long as possible their departure into the outside world. He reminded them that, while education appeared to insist on uniformity, it also endeavoured to develop individual personality. The completion of the task, however, rested with them; they must not be afraid of hard work, but must try to make the most of what they had. Dr. Hope was also concerned with discipline,

especially self-discipline. He believed that all should learn to think and understand why certain orders had to be obeyed. Other qualities of equal importance were compassion and mercy, a sense of humour and freedom of spirit. In conclusion the speaker declared that everyone had always something more to learn, even when he had left school.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Mr. A. Tunnington and seconded by Councillor J. Norton, both Old Boys of the School; afterwards the Junior Choir sang "The Song of the Tub", by John Tobin, and "Oliver Cromwell", by Benjamin Britten.

The proceedings ended with the singing of "Lo, the sound of youthful voices" to the tune of Cwm Rhondda.

SCHOOL MAGAZINES

The Editors wish to acknowledge the receipt of the following magazines, with apologies for any omissions:—

The Alsopian, Blackburne House Magazine, Calder High School Magazine, The Caldean, Childwall Valley High School Magazine, The Crosbeian, Esmeduna, Essemnay, Holly Lodge High School Magazine, The Holt School Magazine, The Quarry, RUYM, The Squirrel, The Visor, The Wallaseyan, The Warrior, Los Angeles, California, Wirral Grammar School Magazine.

HOUSE NOTES

ALFRED HOLT

Only moderate success rewarded our House last year for the efforts made in the sporting field. The junior team did well in winning the Fives Shield, but apart from this, no other trophy was gained. In the Athletic Sports we were placed third, however, and we reached the semi-final in the Cricket Competition.

A disappointing feature of the Sports was the lack of entries. Our high position was gained chiefly by the efforts of a handful of boys. Support, particularly among the junior members of the House, is keen, but to watch is not enough. If we are to improve our position in these competitions, all boys must pull their weight.

Our grateful thanks are due to Mr. Durband and Mr. H. G. B. Watson for their constant help in both the academic and sporting fields.

D. T. JACK.

COCHRAN

The past two terms have been only moderate ones for the House. All three teams were unplaced in the School Sports, and it was cricket that assumed the dominant position in the Summer Term. The Junior team won the Whitehouse Cup, and the Senior team reached the semi-final of its competition.

G. R. Getty is to be congratulated on winning the Junior individual swimming championship.

Cochran's win in a recent inter-house knock-out football competition promises success in next term's Horsfall Cup Competition.

If last year's efforts are maintained, the House should also field a strong team for the cross-country competition.

Mr. Brierley is again thanked for his continued interest in House activities.

V. N. COWAN.

DANSON

The past year has not been a successful one. The only achievement worthy of note was that of the Middle Cricket eleven, who won their competition. In the Athletic Sports lack of support was chiefly responsible for mediocre results. Nor was any distinction gained in the Work Competition, in which we were placed fifth. This term has been slightly more encouraging: the football team was narrowly beaten in the Knock-out Competition by Cochran, the eventual winners.

However, we must look to the future. In welcoming the new members, I hope that they will infuse more life into the House than has hitherto been seen. A united effort is needed and every member of the House must do his share.

Finally our thanks are due to Mr. Booth and Mr. K. W. Moore for the interest shown in and support given to the House.

C. G. E. BERRY.

HUGHES

The House has always distinguished itself in the past by a consistently high position in the Work Competition; it is hoped, therefore, that the change of order after the first half-term this year is but a temporary one, and will soon be remedied.

It is, however, a lamentable fact that, although we have met with success in this field, where the effort of every member of the House is taken into account, yet in every competition which depended on voluntary support, the House has met with ignominious defeat, notably in the School Sports last summer. It is insufficient to rely on the efforts of a few keen boys; and, until this is realised, and genuine support is given by every member in all House activities, none of our efforts can be crowned with success.

Once again, our gratitude is due to our House-masters, Messrs. Edge and Rogers, for their continued advice and encouragement, which it is hoped, will this year have the desired effect.

N. W. FYANS.

LAWRENCE HOLT

In the two competitions which have been held this term, the House has shown promise of retaining and adding to the reputation for enthusiasm and success which it has won in its first year of existence. Last year, the House distinguished itself on both the academic and sporting sides of School life. It was placed first in the Hobby Show, won two sections of the Swimming Sports and the middle section of the Athletic Sports. Already this term, Lawrence has moved to first place in the House Work Competition. It is the duty of every member to ensure that this position is retained, and, by his enthusiasm and hard work to win new honours for Lawrence in those few activities in which we have not yet been successful.

D. A. THOMAS.

OWEN

During the Summer term the House met with a varying degree of success. Thanks to a few boys, the Whitehouse Cup for Senior cricket was won, and the House was placed third in the Swimming Sports. The Athletic Sports, however, brought little distinction, and our placings in the House Work Competition were again undistinguished.

The new School year promises better results, however, especially among the Senior boys of the House. Already this term we have been placed second in the House Work Competition and a Senior football team was unlucky to be beaten in the final of a knock-out competition. It is to the boys of the Middle and Junior sections of the House that an appeal for more active support must be made. During the past year the Juniors have achieved

little and, if the tradition of the House is to be maintained, this must be remedied.

In closing, our thanks are due to Mr. Morgan and Mr. Dewhurst for their advice and co-operation.

R. S. WHITING.

PHILIP HOLT

The House distinguished itself in a wide field of activities, the honours being shared by all age groups. The Juniors won their football competition and the Seniors their sections in both the swimming and athletic sports. In addition the House won the chess trophy and attained a high standard in the Work Competition.

So far this year, only the Work and Knock-out football Competitions have been held, and in neither has the House been very successful, although the football team played well, meeting the eventual champions in the semi-final. We look forward, however, to repeating and improving upon last year's successes, provided that every member of the House gives his keen support.

We thank Mr. Bentliff and Mr. Warwick for their continued support and encouragement.

E. J. N. WILSON.

TATE

The first year under the new House system has seen the formation, development, and advance of Tate House. In the past twelve months the House has achieved sporting and academic distinction, a fair result of the hard work of our Housemasters, Mr. Day and Mr. Lloyd. We congratulate last year's House Captain, D. S. Whiting, who, with our present Captain, P. Hallam, has brought both himself and the House honour with his success in the Midsummer Examinations.

At the end of the Summer term the House Cricket XI, under the captaincy of J. C. Morris, won through to the final round of the Cricket Cup. In the final addition of marks in the Work Competition we were placed first. This success, however, has not been repeated this term. Only by an all out effort by every boy in the House can we regain our previously high position, and there will be ample opportunity for this in the forthcoming competitions in football, hockey, chess and basketball.

J. E. SHARP

SCHOOL FIRST CRICKET ELEVEN

Once again over Easter the weather assisted the limbering-up of the team, but made a speciality of wet wickets for the first five games. After a much delayed start, Sefton C.C. struggled to a draw against Lawrenson's spinners, with their last pair requiring 68 runs for victory. The spin lesson was not learnt at Wallasey, however, where, after a School batting failure of 54 runs, our pace attack could not avert a 10 wickets defeat. Liverpool C.C. found the School with its tail up, and having lost the first by four wickets were saved by rain in the return fixture. For the first time in many years Quarry secured a win—by four wickets.

The sun at last began to shine, and Sefton C.C., Birkenhead Institute, King's School, Chester, Birkenhead School all fell heavily, but Quarry, facing a declaration of 144 for six, really distinguished themselves with a four wickets victory. Merchant Taylors' were full of praise for our 161 for three declared, and were content to reply with 96 for four. Cowley suffered their usual nine wickets defeat at Mersey Road and won the gamble again at Cowley. Both the Staff and the Liobians won their games, but not without a high respect for School cricket. Collegiate and Wirral were completely outclassed.

The season was a remarkable one, in that traditional victories and defeats were reversed in some cases. At all times sportsmanship and turn out were exemplary, satisfying at least two of the demands of Messrs. Brierley and Wass.

RESULTS, 1955

	P.	W.	D.	L.
1st XI	17	8	2	7
2nd XI	11	4	3	4
Colts	12	5	5	2
Under 13 XI	6	1	0	5

CRITIQUE

- V. N. COWAN (*Captain*).—A first-class seam bowler, accurate in his variations of flight and pace. His experience as Captain promises well for next season.
- J. C. MORRIS.—His batting has impressed some famous cricket personalities. A brilliant fieldsman in the gully.
- B. S. ROBERTS.—An all-round cricketer; fast high action in-swing bowler and forcing bat.
- J. H. B. GRACE.—He has developed into a good opening batsman. A very reliable wicket-keeper.
- A. G. LAWRENSON.—The mainspring of the spin attack. He has the makings of a first-class batsman.
- R. S. WHITING.—Although he had a poor season, he is a stylish batsman. Perhaps his former pace as a bowler will return next season.
- E. J. WELTON.—His unbounded enthusiasm has helped him to become a useful all-rounder.
- R. W. OSBORNE.—A confident young batsman, who promises to do very well. Skilful wicket-keeper.
- J. D. PARKINSON.—A promising leg-break bowler. He has taken rapid strides in both fielding and batting.

FULL COLOURS.

RE-AWARDS: V. N. Cowan, J. C. Morris, R. S. Whiting.
AWARDS: J. H. B. Grace, B. S. Roberts, E. J. Welton.

HALF COLOURS

RE-AWARD: A. G. Lawrenson.
AWARDS: R. N. Osborne, J. D. Parkinson, J. J. Gurney.

BATTING AVERAGES, 1955

	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Highest Score	Avgc.
J. C. Morris.....	17	2	552	93	36.80
B. S. Roberts.....	15	7	237	35*	29.62
J. H. B. Grace.....	17	2	302	50	20.13
R. W. Osborne.....	10	6	61	15	15.25
E. J. Welton.....	16	0	205	96	12.81
V. N. Cowan.....	14	1	132	23	10.15
A. G. Lawrenson.....	13	0	112	27	8.62
R. S. Whiting.....	15	1	119	30*	8.50
J. D. Parkinson.....	8	0	60	19	7.50

* Not Out.

BOWLING AVERAGES, 1955

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Avgc.
V. N. Cowan.....	242	73	479	71	6.75
A. G. Lawrenson.....	63.4	10	205	22	9.32
B. S. Roberts.....	121.5	44	259	21	12.33
J. D. Parkinson.....	30	2	117	8	14.63
E. J. Welton.....	45.3	9	161	9	17.88
R. S. Whiting.....	112.4	24	324	14	23.14

SWIMMING

This year the School Swimming Sports were held at Picton Road Baths on Monday, 18th July. The number of entries, though comparing favourably with that of last year, still remains low, in comparison with the number of boys in the School.

The results of the House Championships were:—
 Senior: 1st, Philip; 2nd, Lawrence; 3rd, Owen.
 Junior: 1st, Lawrence; 2nd, Philip; 3rd, Owen.
 Under 13: 1st, Cochran; 2nd, Danson; 3rd, Owen.
 Aggregate: 1st, Lawrence; 2nd, Philip; 3rd, Owen.

J. F. Sambrook, of Philip, won the individual Senior Championship; G. R. Getty, of Cochran, the Under 13 Championship; and B. R. Ashton, of Philip, and R. D. Lang, of Lawrence, shared the Junior Championship.

At the Inter-School Swimming Gala, held at Lodge Lane Baths on September 7th, out of thirteen Merseyside Grammar Schools the School Team was placed fifth in the aggregate. The Senior and Junior Teams were placed fourth and fifth respectively in their groups. L. W. Banham and B. W. Halliday are to be congratulated on their individual achievements.

A more ambitious table of matches was arranged last year than has been undertaken in previous years. The enthusiasm of the team, and its achievements have been most encouraging. The School won its matches against the Alsop High School, Wirral Grammar School, Liverpool College, and Merchant Taylors', but lost to Calday Grange, Wallasey Grammar School, and Quarry Bank High School. W. C. Cotton, A. Smith, and A. C. Gallie deserve mention for their performances throughout the season.

The annual visit to Rivacre Swimming Pool, Ellesmere Port, organised by Mr. Forbes, has now become a most enjoyable social occasion in the Swimming Club's calendar. More boys are urged to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the life-saving classes.

We are grateful to all members of the Staff who assisted in the organisation of the Swimming Sports, and particularly to Mr. Forbes for his invaluable assistance throughout the year.

M. COLVIN.

HOCKEY

There has been a great improvement in School Hockey during this term. Not only have the 1st and 2nd XI's been playing a higher standard of hockey, but there has also been a marked increase in the following of the game throughout both the Upper and Lower School.

The 1st XI contains only three players with more than one year's experience of hockey, while there are two players in their first season. The creditable performances are due mainly to the team spirit and the players' speed in passing the ball from one wing to another. Although the strength of the side lies in the defence, the forwards, after a poor start in the first match, are now gaining confidence and are shooting with greater power and accuracy.

After a defeat at the hands of Prescott Grammar School, the amount of time the players spent practising before the commencement of inter-school matches, was rewarded, when the 2nd XI defeated Liverpool Collegiate, and the 1st XI defeated Bolton School by the odd goal in five.

Victories followed against Dunlop and West Derby Hockey Clubs, before the 1st XI defeated their rivals, Liverpool Collegiate, 10-3.

Thanks are due to Messrs. Willott, Ramsden, Parker and Rogers; also to Mr. Wass for preparing the pitches.

The 1st XI has usually been:—Walker, Parkinson, Kendall, Osborne, Welton, Cass, G. I. Davies, Grace, Morton, Spenley and Thomas.

Results up to and including 19th November:—

		GOALS				
		P.	W.	D.	L.	FOR AGNST.
1st XI		5	4	0	1	22 8
2nd XI		3	2	0	1	7 14

J. H. B. GRACE.

C.C.F. (ARMY AND BASIC SECTIONS)

After a very successful Annual Inspection, when Commander-in-Chief, R.A.F. Regiment, saw the entire Corps on parade, the Summer Term training programme for the Army and Basic Sections was happily rounded off by the Summer Camp at Kinnel Park, North Wales.

Nearly 2,000 cadets and their officers were gathered together from the public schools and grammar schools of the Midlands and the North-West. Good accommodation, good food and good weather are the essentials for a good camp, and we had all these three in fine measure. A well laid-out tented camp housed everybody and while there was ample room for sleeping and relaxation after the day's training, the large marquees used for the cadets' messing had been pitched on sloping ground. This made the safe transportation of loaded plates from the cookhouse to dining table a hazardous undertaking. There was many a slip 'twixt cup and lip and many a well-browned N.A.A.F.I. sausage bit the dust.

Troops were conveyed to the training areas in War Department transport, for which we were very thankful, as the wild and woolly Welsh hinterland set apart for our manoeuvres was some considerable distance from camp. A well-organised scheme of day and night exercises gave ample opportunity for all to develop their qualities of leadership. The redoubtable R.S.M. Flack, well versed in military science, and very hot and red in the face, led many a successful coup. C.S.M. Moore and a small but select band, all carefully chosen for their villainous attributes, played the part of the enemy with rather disturbing realism. The ease with which, day after day, they assumed the role of Mau Mau, Malayan banditti, or those more elusive types from behind a certain Ferrous Arras, gave us to think whither our grammar school education was leading the youth of today.

The Corps Commander, Major Bowen, accompanied the troops on all the exercises and was often observed seated on some rocky eminence, admiring the view, or perhaps getting his second wind, while his troops charged headlong over the horizon. The dry weather had made the undergrowth as dry as tinder and fires were easily started by blank and thunder-flashes. On one night exercise the not inconsiderable figure of Captain McDonald was to be seen leaping nimbly in a circle of blazing gorse bushes. We have never been able to discover whether it was a gallant attempt to beat out the fire, or to beat a hurried retreat. Whichever it was, it was certainly warm work.

We look forward to another year's interesting training and our hopes for the School's success in the Northern School Shoot at Altcar next year run high. Sergeant Harris and Lance Corporal Rosenhead are earning golden opinions, as well as certain silver trophies, as affiliated members of the Altcar Rifle Club, and we look to them, as well as to the other sharpshooters of the Rifle Team, to maintain the reputation of the Institute.

MILES.

C.C.F. (R.A.F. SECTION)

Since Easter the recruitment of more cadets from the Basic Section has given increased impetus to the R.A.F. section's activities. At the end of the Summer Term we lost U/O Ferdinand and Sgt. Pierce. U/O Ferdinand left to continue his studies at Oxford and Sgt. Pierce to join the R.A.F. as a regular officer. We wish them both good fortune in their careers.

On the two field days since Easter the R.A.F. section has travelled by motor coach to R.A.F. Tern Hill in Shropshire, where all cadets had opportunities of flying in Ansons and shooting on the range. During the summer holidays no annual camp was held, as this had taken place at Easter, but many cadets attended courses provided by the R.A.F. at R.A.F. stations. Flt. Sgt. Wilson and L/Cdt. Ferrebee received gliding instruction at Castle Bromwich and St. Athan Gliding Schools, where they acquired their Gliding "B" Certificates for solo circuits. Several other cadets spent a week at R.A.F. Halton in Buckinghamshire, where the courses in Navigation, Air-manship, Engines, and Physical Training are very popular with our cadets, and another party was taken there by Flt./Sgt. Wilson and Cpls. Bennett and Feather during the October holiday.

The four corporals, Barbour, Bennett, Feather and Morton have given enthusiastic support to the training programme of lunch-time lectures. These are designed to instruct cadets for Proficiency and Advanced Proficiency examinations, and it is hoped that, provided the cadets give their support, a large proportion of the Section will have passed one or both of these examinations by the end of the year.

Once again tribute is due to the Commanding Officer, Flt. Lt. Watson, and F/O. Preece for the time and trouble which they devote to the organisation of the R.A.F. section.

FLT./SGT. E. J. N. WILSON.

SCOUT NOTES

Towards the end of Summer Term the Troop sent a representative patrol of six Scouts to Tawd Vale on the occasion of the visit to Lancashire of the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan. The patrol was chosen to represent the local association as a guard of honour to the Chief, as he visited the association's camp enclosure.

During the summer holidays a Troop camp was held in Anglesey; this was greatly enjoyed by all concerned, but unfortunately it meant farewell to Mr. Mann, who had so ably organised the camp with the aid of Mr. Evans. For this, and indeed for all his work throughout the previous school year, we are greatly indebted to him.

In September, our new Senior patrol, the Mallories, was formed, to aid the Troop in general instruction and organisation. This idea has now passed its probationary period, and is functioning very smoothly.

The usual September influx of new blood has brought new interest and enthusiasm into all our activities. Meetings have generally been well attended since the beginning of this school year; interest in badge work has somewhat flagged of late, but is gradually increasing.

In the annual City Association Swimming Gala, held in October, the Troop did well to be placed second; many members gained points for first places, and one member of the Troop subsequently represented the Association in the Lancashire County Gala.

Holiday activities were somewhat curtailed by October weather, but despite this, several 1st Class hikes were undertaken. In the winter holidays, one of the Senior patrol will attend the Welsh Scout Council New Year Expedition, to be held at Capel Curig in Snowdonia.

It is to be hoped that we shall be able to pay our accustomed visit to Woolton Remand Home for a Christmas camp-fire gathering.

Here we must extend our warm thanks to Mr. Evans, and Mr. Smith, our ever-faithful treasurer, for their untiring work on our behalf.

R. J. WALKER.

CLEANED PICTURES

Soon after the beginning of term a small party visited the Walker Art Gallery, where a very remarkable exhibition of newly cleaned pictures was being displayed.

To the uninitiated the "cleaning" of an Old Master may suggest that only a superficial cleansing is implied. Actually a great deal more than this is involved. In the course of a few decades the oil-copal varnish (which was applied to most pictures as a protection against impure air and city grime) would begin to turn yellow. At first this served only to enhance, and to impart a golden patina to a painting. Unfortunately the process of discolouring in such varnishes is continuous. The oil in the resin becomes deeper in colour and slowly assumes a dark brown, when little of the picture's original quality can be seen. At this stage the varnish must obviously be removed altogether and a new one applied.

In the course of a few centuries a number of such operations may have been performed on a picture, not to mention damage in the process, and perhaps unskilful restoration to conceal errors. Very often 'improvements' were added by unscrupulous restorers. It is the duty of the modern restorer to remove the old discoloured varnish, in addition to any badly restored passages, so that we may see the picture once more almost as it left the easel.

Oil-copal varnishes must be removed particle by particle by the aid of a scalpel. Soft resin varnishes, such as mastic and dammar, are reduced by means of solvents. Great skill and infinite patience are both required if the actual paint is not to be interfered with. A momentary lapse and a final delicate glaze might be whisked away.

Many scientific devices now assist the modern restorer, such as X-rays and Infra-Red Rays, which reveal what lies between the surface and the support of a picture, or, on the other hand, passages of more recent restoration.

The deterioration of the varnish is not the only malady which can befall a valuable picture. Faulty technique may produce cracks. Paintings may blister and flake so badly that the pigment will require re-adhesion with the ground, in which case electrically-heated spatulas are employed. The canvas or wood itself, on which a masterpiece is executed, may have perished to such an extent that in order to preserve the work, a new support must replace the old one. In such instances the perished support is meticulously shaved away, fibre by fibre, down to the back of the paint layer itself, which is then attached to a new support—canvas or wood. Some years ago the writer witnessed in the National Gallery laboratory part of the restoration of the Francesca "Nativity" (reputed to be its most valuable picture). Painted upon wood, the panel was so ravaged by worm that the work was in imminent danger of complete disintegration. In the end the whole thickness of the panel was carved away from the back down to half the width of the last worm hole. The remaining layer of undamaged wood, carrying its priceless film of paint, was then attached to its new ground.

When the first exhibition of cleaned pictures was shown at the National Gallery some years ago, a great storm of controversy sprang up as to the desirability of interfering with the harmonising and mellowing effect caused by the yellowing of the varnish. People who had become so accustomed to admiring an Old Master for its rich golden tone values were in some cases horrified to find, when they saw their favourite picture cleaned for the first time, that it had been deprived of its diaphanous and glamorous dress. They realised, with a shock, that the qualities which were being admired were not, after all, the result of skill upon the part of the painter. They were sadly disillusioned. Others, on the contrary, welcomed an opportunity of observing for the first time the real intentions of the painter, which is exactly, of course, as he would have wished.

Admittedly the work of some painters suffered more than others—that of Rubens in particular. On seeing his freshly-cleaned "Judgement of Paris" most experienced painters must have felt that in this picture, at any rate, the master's taste was in question, or that, alternatively, much of the work had been delegated to his assistants. Certainly, as a direct result of this sudden spate of cleaning, Rubens fell a little way from the summit of his pedestal.

S. R.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

All three teams have made a fairly successful start to the season. The senior team has proved itself to be better than any other on Merseyside, excepting only that of St. Edward's College, to whom the School team finished second in the Cumella and Sangster Cup races. On both these occasions, V. N. Cowan has been a most convincing winner. In our other fixtures, the senior team has beaten St. Mary's College team and the University second team.

The junior (under-sixteen) team has had moderate success. It has beaten St. Edward's College and Prenton School, and has lost to Wirral Grammar School and St. Mary's College. In the Memorial and Booth Cup races the team did not show its true form, and finished eighth and seventh out of twelve and eighteen, respectively.

Our Under Fourteen team has won only one match out of four, but it is younger than most of the teams it has run against. Nevertheless they are keen and need not be discouraged, if they remember that this year's Under Sixteen team, which is running reasonably well, won but one match in a whole season, when they were running as an Under Fourteen team, two years ago.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Rowell, who has organised on free Saturday mornings a handicap race, a race for the Third Formers, and one for Fourth Formers. On all three occasions, much hitherto unknown talent has been discovered.

D. G. McCulloch.

GYMNASTIC CLUB

The Gymnastic Club resumed its activities this term on Thursday evenings. Many of last year's keenest members have left us and we undoubtedly miss their enthusiasm.

We must extend a warm welcome to our two new P.E. masters, Messrs. Goodall and Ramsden. The presence of two instructors will greatly benefit gymnastics in the Club and the School in general.

Membership, open to boys in and above the Lower Fifties, is not as large as in previous years, and if we are to give our instructors the support they deserve, more boys must take advantage of the excellent facilities offered. Gymnastics, a beneficial pastime in itself, provides a means of achieving the development and control of the body, so essential in other more fashionable sports.

A junior section of the Club, catering for selected boys in the Third and Fourth forms, meets at 1-20 p.m., on Wednesdays.

Finally our thanks are due to Mr. Goodall and Mr. Ramsden for their great patience and invaluable instruction.

R. S. Whiting.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY

A gloomy situation faced the Literary and Debating Society at the beginning of this term. One of the newly-elected Secretaries, the Lord High Poker-in-Chief, and one committee member had left School, and it seemed as if a scarcity of practised debaters would be a handicap. The depleted committee, however, rallied to the support of the remaining Secretary and a list of debates was quickly compiled for the Green Book. The moment of crisis passed when, at the first meeting of the term, officers were elected to fill the vacancies.

So far four debates have been held this term. These were as follows: -

September 20th: "That this House desires Home Rule for Scotland."

Pro.: P. A. Kennerley and R. Rochester, Con.: G. E. Craigen and R. J. Walker. Motion Defeated: For, 8; Against, 17; Abstentions, 1.

October 11th: "That this House would prefer to live on the Continent." Pro.: J. C. Cuthbertson and J. R. Parry, Con.: H. W. N. Fynn and M. Colvin. Motion Carried: For, 15; Against, 10; Abstentions, 7.

November 1st: "That this House would welcome Co-education." Pro.: J. H. B. Grace and C. A. Malam, Con.: R. J. Walker and R. Rochester. Motion Carried: For, 19; Against, 14; Abstentions, 1.

November 15th: "That this House deplores the ascendancy of the Trades Unions." Pro.: A. Brignell and J. E. Sharp, Con.: G. E. Craigen and J. C. Cuthbertson. Motion Carried, For, 19; Against, 9; Abstentions, 0.

The first debate of the year rarely finds the Society at its best, and despite the valiant efforts of the small but faithful band of experienced speakers, many members seemed unsure of themselves. The next debate was amusing and even witty, but it was generally felt that the motion was treated too frivolously. Co-education is a hackneyed debating subject, yet it provided, surprisingly perhaps, the best debate this term. The main speeches were interesting, forceful, and well delivered, leading the House in a consistently worthy performance. This, with the last debate, has dispelled earlier doubts, and has given the Society confidence. Many new members have spoken creditably, and there have been the usual discoveries amongst both the young and old.

The Secretaries would like to extend their cordial invitation to any potential debaters. To Mr. C. H. Moore and the Vice-Presidents we express our sincere gratitude for their never-failing enthusiasm and encouragement.

J. E. S., G. E. C.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Last half-term the only meeting of the Society was held in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Trafalgar. Mr. Edge gave an illustrated lecture on the events leading up to the battle, the action, and the significance of Trafalgar. The talk, backed by Mr. Edge's naval experience, contained much colourful detail, which gave an added savour to the subject.

It is hoped that in the future meetings of the Society members will take a more active part, themselves delving in the byways of history for the benefit of other members.

E. BRAMHALL.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

At the end of the Summer term, the Society held its annual excursion, which was to the Langdale Pikes in the Lake District.

The majority of the members of the party, obviously experiencing post-examination freedom and the effects of the heat, neglected the geological interest of the area to sunbathe by the side of the tarn. Some of the more energetic climbed the final stage of the Pikes, returning mud-stained and exhausted. Messrs. Edwards, Parker, and Warwick remained unperturbed at the somewhat eccentric activities of those present, and the success of the trip must be attributed to their organisation and enthusiasm.

A poor attendance caused the first meeting of this term to be postponed. At a later date, Mr. Watkinson, a visiting lecturer, kindly returned to show us colour films of France, and of the course of the Dee, taken on his travels.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. Forbes, who delivered a highly entertaining and informative talk on his recent journeys in the Levant. We look forward to a further account of his travels in the Balkans. It is hoped that the concluding meetings of this term will consist of a programme of films and a talk by Mr. Boote on the "Plains Indians of North America."

Finally, the Secretaries would like to take this opportunity of thanking our Chairman, Mr. J. Edwards, for his constant interest and advice.

R. A. BUTLIN, K. E. CROSSLEY.

OLD BOYS' SECTION

Sport

Though the parent body of the Old Boys' Association does its best to cater for the social needs of Liobians (the second Ladies' Night, for example, which was held in October, was quite as successful as the first), by far the most active sections are the Football and Cricket clubs, for rarely a week-end passes without one team or another defending the sporting honour of the School.

The Liobians F.C. now has 83 registered players, with four teams competing in league competitions. The 1st XI plays in the I-Zingari League, 3rd division, and narrowly missed promotion to the second. The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th teams all found themselves in high positions in their respective leagues: the 3rd XI was especially successful. Not only did its members come close to winning the Old Boys' League Junior Trophy, but they did succeed in defeating the Staff in the J. D. Payne Memorial Trophy. It was the first time that the masters had fielded a team in this competition—which perhaps accounted for the defeat!—but then the Staff fared no better at the hands of the Cricket Club, in its annual game at Mersey Road. Here is T. W. Slade's account of this distinguished match:—

"Against the Staff the Old Boys again demonstrated their inability to win the toss, and Messrs. Moore and Davies opened against the usual Old Boys' pace attack of Taylor and Wood. Scoring was slow, but the batsmen were not unduly troubled until the advent of Backhouse and Grimes. The latter appeared to worry both batsmen, and after an eventful second over that included two negative appeals and a dropped catch, Mr. Moore was adjudged l.b.w. off the last ball, for 13 out of a total of 33 runs.

Morris then came in and endeavoured to quicken the scoring rate with a couple of boundaries; Mr. Davies gave him a brief course of instruction by taking two fours and a three off consecutive balls from Grimes and then, as though fearing a sudden fall from grace, retired firmly into his shell again. The score mounted steadily but slowly; the off-spin of Grimes was replaced by the off-spin of J. Lloyd, Morris hit Backhouse for a soaring six, and his left arm slows were succeeded at once by the left arm pace of Taylor. The 100 went up and then at 115, Morris, trying to force the pace, was caught by Ward off J. Lloyd for 42. Mitchell, following, found the defensive field just as hard to pierce; Mr. Davies continued in his Bailey-esque way, and at 150 Mitchell was out for 17.

Came the tea interval. The Staff skipper was faced with the hard facts that the time had come to declare, that it was a perfect batsman's wicket, and that in just over two and a half hours, his side had scored 161 for three—Mr. Davies 67 not out—with some very forceful batting parked unused in the shade of the pavilion.

After tea, E. Lloyd and Childs opened the Old Boys' batting against the bowling of Messrs. Devereux and Brierley. The Staff soon drew first blood, for in his second over, with the score at eight, Mr. Devereux bowled Lloyd for four. Childs, apparently annoyed at this unfriendly action, proceeded to hit Mr. Brierley's second over for 16, whereupon that gentleman retired to mid-off and called up Roberts into the attack. Childs, anxious to prove impartial, collected another 14 off the latter's first over, but thereafter, over-anxiousness appeared to affect accuracy of contact, and at 51, in pulling Mr. Devereux to leg, he was well caught by Mr. Edge. His 37 runs included two sixes and four fours. Backhouse joined Isbister, but not for long, as in Robert's next over, Isbister was clean bowled for 17. Total 63.

John Davies then appeared armed for battle, but the Staff, with lingering memories of previous treatment at his hands, had devised plans accordingly. Mitchell was promptly substituted for Roberts, and Mr. Edge strategically placed at the remotest point of the legside boundary, safely held a stratospheric catch, 64 for four.

There, unfortunately, success deserted the Staff. John Lloyd, the new batsman, was in top form and successfully evaded all the wiles of Messrs.

Devereux, Brierley, Mitchell and Wass, while Backhouse, whose shots were ever incalculable, nobly defied any efforts at orderly, sane field placing. The 100 came up; 120; 130; and it was not until the recall of Roberts into the attack that a further wicket fell, when, at 143, he bowled Backhouse for 36.

By then, alas, it was too late. Two overs later, at 158, he also bowled J. Lloyd for a hard-hit 53, but more as a final gesture of defiance than to achieve any decisive gain. The Old Boys ran safely up to 162 for six with some twenty minutes to spare."

The Cricket Club, indeed, took full advantage of the exceptional summer. Of the 30 fixtures, 21 were won, five drawn, and only four lost. The club achieved its record score for an afternoon's cricket—288 for seven against Liscard Central XI—and during July and August scored over 150 runs twelve times, and over 200 runs three times. It is hardly surprising that in addition to defeating the Staff, the Liobians twice defeated the School.

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'Penny Dreadfuls'

Schoolmasters never have looked kindly upon schoolboy fiction, and presumably they never will. In their opinion it seems that whatever the contemporary taste happens to be, it is bad. Mr. F. H. U. Bowman, in his address to the Annual General Meeting of the Association in November, took the view that in his day the schoolboys' press had virtues not to be found in the comics of today, and several hardened schoolmasters, inveterate enemies of modern schoolboy fiction, were seen to soften, and heard later to enthuse, over the speaker's reminiscences of "The Magnet" and "The Gem." Copies of these publications were treated with reverential care by hands accustomed to ripping in two the confiscable periodicals of today. Below, in an article based on his talk, Mr. Bowman explains his admiration for

School-time Story Books

When I was a schoolboy at the Liverpool Institute—I am not giving any dates—there was a diversity of opinion as to what was good reading. My form, conducted with such shrewd and sympathetic understanding by Mr. J. W. Malkin, had its own little library with a mimeographed catalogue; and here I borrowed books by Henty and Ballantyne, besides scaring myself sleepless with imaginative horror literature, such as the "Red Fairy Book" and similar volumes identified by various colours. School poetry included "Mary, the Maid of the Inn", and the story of the girl, who went for a wager to the Abbey ruins by moonlight and beheld her lover helping to carry a murdered corpse, gave me further shocks.

For recreation, I fell back on popular weekly periodicals such as *The Gem*, *The Magnet*, *The Union Jack*, *Chips*, *Comic Cuts* and *The Butterfly*, published by the Amalgamated Press. *The Gem*, after the first few issues, was mainly devoted to long complete 30,000-word school-tales, written by an author with the romantic name of Martin Clifford, about the adventures of Tom Merry and his friends. *The Magnet* had a rival novelist called Frank Richards, and every week he turned out a story of the same length, recounting the scholastic experiences of Harry Wharton and Billy Bunter, the fat boy. Originally priced at a halfpenny, these magazines soon doubled their size and rose to a penny; then to three halfpence and twopence. Eventually they died.

There were strenuous arguments among my friends and myself regarding which was the better author—Frank Richards, or Martin Clifford, and it was not until I was asked to join the Old Boys' Book Club quite recently, becoming Vice-Chairman, that I discovered the folly of this controversy; for I learnt that all these stories were written under different names by one man, Charles Hamilton, who also wrote many others at the same time,

under the nom-de-plume of Owen Conquest. In the middle eighties, though much handicapped by eye trouble, he is still typing away at new school tales, and they are being published in a steady stream of bright and readable books.

Even my old School has at last set the seal of approval on my early choice of literature by inviting me to address the Annual Meeting of the Old Boys' Association, when I revived nostalgic memories among the audience by exhibiting my collections. The Book Club has been organised by enthusiasts who share my happy memories of what we used to read. There are branches throughout the country, and in Canada Mr. William H. Gander edits a miniature magazine called "The Story Paper Collector", publishing articles and pictures about the fiction of the past.

Herbert Leckerby, of York, was welcomed by the Club at a Crosby meeting some weeks ago, and in my speech I mentioned my devotion to "The Woman in Scarlet." To my delight he found me an actual copy of *Chips* containing one of the instalments, and I treasure it now among my most valued souvenirs.

Though I was never very much good at athletic sports, Charles Hamilton had the gift of holding my interest, even when he described football and cricket matches, and in any weather I could imagine myself enjoying a lazy drift down the river in a boat, just as he made me picture it; but even Tom Merry could not teach me to play games. Friends in my Form said that perhaps I would be better as the Editor of a School Magazine, and inspired by one of these story books, "The Boy Editor", I took up that duty instead.

Juvenile devotion to such literature was not encouraged at school. It seemed to be assumed that weekly periodicals catering for youngsters must necessarily be blood-and-thunders, or penny-dreadfuls, and though papers of that kind may have sometimes appeared, I still find in more mature years little to criticise in the periodicals I have named. Indeed, their influence was permanently beneficial. Charles Hamilton's most popular characters were always glad to risk life and limb to rescue animals in distress, setting an excellent example to readers, while in *The Union Jack*, Sexton Blake, Detective, and his lively young assistant, Tinker, showed great affection for their sagacious bloodhound, Pedro.

A tale that I remember with warm appreciation in *The Union Jack* was "The Colonel's Charger." A retired officer's horse is stolen for spite and consigned to the horrors of the Continental traffic in worn-out beasts of burden. Sexton Blake saves it. This story opened my eyes for the first time to the tragic cruelty inflicted on horses shipped for brutal exploitation, when unfit for further work, and years later, I founded the Animal Service Association.

Chips had a definite influence on my career. This pink halfpenny paper had four pages of comic pictures and four pages of fiction. A serial story called "The Woman in Scarlet" was all about a beautiful and courageous damsel, who sailed the seas as a pirate, redressing wrongs and aiding the oppressed. As a boy, I adored her, and her adventures gave me my first incentive to become a pirate myself. Fortunately I noticed in time that this romantic calling involved far too much danger, so I turned to authorship, and it was *Chips* that paid me my first guineas for a dramatic story. The Editor, Harold J. Garrish, accepted many of my stories and then turned me over to the Editor of *The Butterfly*, who published my series of cinema tales in "Fun and Fiction," under the title of "Behind the Scenes."

In *The Butterfly*, I read in my school days a romance entitled "The City of Millions," and I still have one of the illustrations from this, depicting a playwright in evening dress, accompanied by a beautiful girl, watching from a private box the production of his new drama. This had helped to inspire me with a desire to emulate his achievement, if only for the sake of pleasing such a girl, and in due course, I often had the experience of occupying a box at the theatre to see my own plays. The absence of any girl has conferred on me the compensation of remaining a bachelor.

F. H. U. BOWMAN.

News in Brief

E. A. Griffiths is now on the staff of Manchester Grammar School: H. R. Dodd is teaching at King's School, Canterbury: E. Colville for the last eighteen months has been attached to the 1st Battalion, The Malay Regiment: E. S. Jones is Deputy Finance Officer in the Foreign Office: J. W. Wilson holds an appointment at the Embassy in Copenhagen.

We have heard with regret of the deaths of the following Old Boys: Sir John Bagnall, J. A. Owen, R. G. Baxter, H. W. Peck, E. T. Bisson, R. D. Hogg, R. H. Gornall.

CHESS CLUB

A pleasing feature of the Chess Club this year has been the marked increase in attendances at meetings. The club now has a record number of 60 members, 35 of whom are junior boys.

The 'Chess Ladder' competition was resumed at the beginning of the term and a start has also been made on the annual Junior Chess Tournament.

So far this season the School chess team has not achieved the success that one might have expected. Although the team shows only two changes from that which finished runners-up in the Wright Challenge Shield competition last year, we have already lost two of our three opening matches. After beating The Collegiate School by 5 pts.—2 pts., we were narrowly defeated by Alsop Grammar School. In the following match, however, the team suffered its heaviest defeat in four seasons, when it lost to Calday Grange by 5½ pts.—1½ pts. A School second team, in its first match of the season, did well to draw with a much more experienced Alsop side, and it is hoped that more fixtures will be arranged for this second team.

Finally, the members of the Chess Club offer their sincere thanks to Mr. E. R. Jones, who has devoted so much of his time to the activities of the club. We should also like to express our thanks to Mr. Willott for his help and advice in the running of a Junior section.

D. CANTER.

CHORAL MUSIC IN THE SCHOOL

The Junior Choir of sixty voices was formed, as usual, in the Autumn term to provide songs for Speech Night. Rehearsals were held, both after school and during the dinner-hour, and were, on the whole, well attended.

A four-part choir of forty-six voices (fourteen trebles, nine altos, nine tenors and fourteen basses), has also been formed on a permanent basis. They provided for Speech Night three songs composed and arranged by Hugh S. Robertson (the former conductor of the Glasgow Orpheus Choir).

This choir will take part in a number of public performances this year. At the invitation of the School Music Club, they are to provide two groups of part-songs for a concert this term. It is also hoped to give performances of a larger choral work next term.

At present, there are no vacancies in this choir. Membership is limited to those who are able to sight-read music.

MUSIC CLUB

During the Autumn term, meetings of the Music Club were held every week, and there was a wide variety of gramophone recitals. On one occasion Mr. R. N. Evans introduced a short programme of records of his own choice, including works by Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Sibelius. This meeting proved very popular. One meeting was devoted to operatic recordings from

Rossini, Verdi and Puccini, and another to Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto. Jazz meetings were held every three weeks and were devoted mainly to gramophone records.

There have been organ recitals by Mr. R. N. Evans and M. E. Plunkett, while J. R. Conder and J. E. Roberts have given a joint piano and violin recital. Next term's programme includes a two-piano recital by J. R. Parry and Mr. Rowell, and an illustrated talk on the double bass by Mr. David Connolly. A special meeting has been held to celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Sibelius, and it is planned to mark the bicentenary of Mozart's birth and the centenary of Schumann's death, in 1956.

Once again the thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Naylor and Mr. A. Evans for their help and guidance. J. R. PARRY.

THE ORCHESTRA

At the end of the Summer term, Mr. Davies left to take up a post in the south. With him go the best wishes of the Orchestra. In his place, we welcome Mr. R. N. Evans as director of the Orchestra, which is already thriving under his guidance.

The Orchestra now has over twenty members, but this is still a comparatively small number, considering the size of the School. It is frequently discovered too late that boys of real talent have not joined the group, whereas they ought to have been in the Orchestra for years. Yet now there are more young members, who are not only swelling the ranks of string-players, but also increasing the woodwind section.

Every week the Orchestra practises regularly short pieces by Purcell, Schubert and others. There is also sight-reading practice with new pieces, which are to be examined more fully later. It is hoped in this way to increase the Orchestra's repertoire and to widen the musical knowledge of its members. J. R. PARRY.

CHRISTIAN UNION

Our meetings this term have followed a definite plan, with the object of introducing us to the practical aspects of our Christian Faith; speakers connected with different organisations were invited to come and tell us about their work. The first meeting of the term took place on Wednesday, 21st September, when the Rev. V. J. Walker spoke about his work amongst the deaf and dumb; our speaker gave us a demonstration of the language, and this meeting aroused much interest among the senior boys of the School. Since that date, meetings have been held regularly during the lunch hour on Wednesdays. Mr. C. H. Done spoke about the work of the Church in the Courts, and this theme was continued by Mr. H. Brooks, who is the Senior Probation Officer for Liverpool. Canon Rogers spoke about his experiences as a Diocesan Missioner, and Canon Evans described the work of the Mersey Mission to Seamen.

We were able to arrange for two missionary speakers, at present home on furlough, to visit us; Mr. Roberts from the Regions Beyond Missionary Union showed us a film strip about the Belgian Congo, and Mr. Hoggarth from the Evangelical Union of South America brought with him some excellent colour slides taken in Peru. Both of these meetings were very well supported, and so was the Fact and Faith film, 'God of Creation', which was attended by about a hundred boys.

On Saturday, 1st October, a group of boys attended Evensong at Liverpool Cathedral and were afterwards taken on a conducted tour of the building by the Guest Master, Canon L. W. R. Jacob, whom we should like to thank for making this visit such a success.

We are pleased to report that attendances have increased, and meetings have been well supported by boys from all parts of the School. Our branch

of the Scripture Union has enrolled a number of new members for 1956; we should like to commend the practice of regular Bible reading, and invite others to support this excellent scheme. We thank our chairman, Mr. J. E. Watson, and Mr. E. R. Jones, for their continued advice and support.

P. A. KENNERLEY.

SIXTH FORM SCIENCE SOCIETY

Towards the end of the Summer term a party of members enjoyed a conducted tour of the "Shell" research laboratories at Stanlow, where they were shown some interesting scientific instruments, including an electron microscope, and many types of petrol and diesel engines running on the test beds.

The first lecture of this School year was delivered by Dr. Bradbury, the City Architect. With the help of some excellent slides, he told us something of his work and disclosed some of the aims behind the planning of Liverpool's housing estates and civic buildings. The next lecture, entitled "Give and take between molecules," was given by Mr. Holliday from Liverpool University. Mr. Holliday offered us an explanation of the co-ionic band, one of the knottiest of valency problems, and showed us some of its applications. The argument, although a little too difficult for the mathematicians to understand, was very interesting and informative.

Another City official, the Deputy City Water Engineer, brought with him maps, diagrams and a sound film, with which he illustrated his talk on the subject of historical and technical aspects of Liverpool's Water Supply.

With the help of coloured slides, Professor Burges from the University of Liverpool discussed the problems facing sheep farmers in Australia—problems caused by scarcity of vegetation. He told us how botanists, by carrying out extensive researches, have found methods of avoiding these difficulties. Professor Burges also related some amusing anecdotes of his experiences of life in many parts of the world.

The first works visit of the year was to a tin works in Bootle. A party of twenty was shown the smelting of the ore and the refining of the metal to high purity. The visitors also saw an instrument which estimated impurities by spectrum analysis.

Once again we thank Mr. Naylor and Mr. Walker, who have taken the Chair at some of our meetings, and we are particularly indebted to Mr. W. H. Jones for all his efforts in running the Society. E. J. N. WILSON.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Although there have been some difficulties in arranging visits from outside lecturers, the Society's chief function—to encourage photography in the School and to provide darkroom facilities for members of the Society—has continued to be fulfilled. Members are reminded that the Society possesses a darkroom equipped for enlarging, contact printing, and negative development, and that tutorial classes in the elementary processes are held every Monday by Mr. W. H. Jones.

In order to encourage photography during the winter, the committee has considered the purchase of a new set of reflectors and stands for artificial light photography, which may be borrowed by members; it is hoped that this equipment will arrive before Christmas. Early in the New Year there will be a competition, in which prizes will be offered for the best artificial light and flash photographs.

The programme for the Spring term includes visits by several distinguished photographers, a demonstration of colour photography, and various outings, including a trip around the dock estate. D. A. THOMAS.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Lloyd, the Society has continued to progress and attendances at the meetings have been regular.

Of the six meetings held so far this term, three have consisted of talks. At one of these meetings the younger members of the Society were asked to talk for a few minutes on a subject of their own choosing. The prize offered for the best of these was won by D. Fellows. At the other two meetings already mentioned addresses were given by Mr. D. Warwick, and an outside speaker, Mr. Ewing, who is well-known to many philatelists. The Society is indebted to both of these speakers for their extremely interesting talks.

The Library has been open regularly every Friday lunch-time, and the magazines have been in great demand. The Stamp Pool has again aroused interest among members and has continued to attract attention at most Library meetings.

We should like to thank several ex-members of the School for their gifts to the Society, as well as the Chairman and Vice-Presidents for their continued help and support.

B. W. TAYLOR.

MODELS SOCIETY

Since the last issue of the Magazine, the Society has enjoyed a very crowded programme. Last Spring forty-three members travelled by coach to the Lake District, where they visited Mr. Thorpe, previously Vice-President of the Society, and later in the term a party visited Messrs. Cammell Laird's at Birkenhead.

Lectures have been held every week, and last term Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Forbes and several members gave lecture demonstrations on subjects ranging from "Model Trams" to "Puppet Theatres."

Last term the Society commenced model-building competitions to encourage practical work among members. We were pleased to welcome the Headmaster to the judging of our first competition, which was for solid model aircraft. There will be further competitions involving the construction of model boats and road vehicles.

The Library, open twice a week, is now proving extremely popular and a special fund enables us to take six Modelling periodicals monthly.

Outdoor activities of the Model Aircraft Section will be resumed in the Spring term, when it is hoped that practical construction classes will be started.

Finally we should like to thank Mr. Durband, Mr. Tait, and Mr. Wray for the time they have given to the Society and for their unfailing interest in our activities.

H. W. MOORE.

ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORT SOCIETY

The Society has held three excursions during recent months. Visits have been made to the Vulcan locomotive works, to Llandudno, where members travelled on the unique Llandudno and Colwyn Bay Electric Railway and showed their aptitude for mountaineering when descending some of the 679 feet of the Great Orme, and to the works of Crosville Motor Services at Chester.

The Library in Room 15 continues to flourish, and there has been a welcome increase in the number of boys attending the Monday lectures.

Thanks are due to Mr. E. R. Jones and Mr. Hosker for their assistance in running the Society.

R. J. PATTERSON, A. R. PHILLIPS.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meetings this term have been well attended. A party of members visited Delamere Forest, where those who wished were able to add to their collections of fungus, while others took the opportunity to collect samples of the various fruits available this season. We are grateful to Mr. Walker for organising this excursion.

May we appeal for more support for the Society from the Upper School?

G. M. GORDON.

OXFORD LETTER

Oxford.

The Editor, The Liverpool Institute Magazine.

Sir,—Sadness and melancholy are the usual lot of those *ex Instituto Lerpolienses* who dwell in this city of dreaming spires during the Michaelmas term. The leaves fall one by one from the trees along the Broad Walk, and foul fogs and damps arise from the river to swirl drearily about the Meadow. The shadow of Schools begins to darken the lives of our older companions, and while second year men think of the summer past or the summer yet to come, the freshmen attend lectures and find themselves strangers in the inland world in which we live. But this year, Sir, our lot has been not as usual. The sun has appeared almost daily, the river has flowed gently within its banks and summer's laughter and light-heartedness have remained to gladden our spirits.

Our senior members, Mr. Kneale, and Mr. McKie, are not affected by seasonal moods. Their serenity and wisdom increase with the years, and only a proposal to build a new four-lane highway where Exeter and Brasenose now stand could possibly lessen their affability.

Mr. Shaw has solved the traffic problem; not for him the dangers of The High or The Corn, for he is often glimpsed on his way from New Inn, Hall St., to the Parks *via* the towpath and Iffley. But alas, Sir, few could follow him, for like Mercury he flies, and only the flash of his elegant shorts in the bright sunshine betrays the fact that he is passing on his way.

Mr. Glyn Jones is more easily discernible whenever he chooses to visit the city. He now hides out down the Iffley Road and appears but to extract money from his fellows by threatening to make them speak after a certain notable dinner. His dread words, "Pay up or speak up" terrify even Mr. Oxburgh, who, we thought, knew more suitable after-dinner stories than most, but perhaps we were mistaken. This gentleman now taps rocks with his little hammer, and if this becomes tedious, with his head, an idiosyncrasy which accounts for his halting gait early in the term and his frequent visits to the Radcliffe Hospital. His associate, Mr. Page, is still to be found in University College and on, or in, the river. He has a much longer hammer than his friend and he uses it to terrorise his unhappy crews who refer to him bitterly as "One-Piece."

Mr. Richards, too, inhabits this bibulous establishment on the High Street. Life, he avows, is illogical, and he vents his ire on a hockey ball. On other occasions he chews his pipe thoughtfully and takes coffee in The Thackley—the home of Mr. Bernard Jones. This gentleman, Sir, has recently been elevated to an honourable position by the members of his J. C. R. and he carries out his duties with vigour and determination. He constantly receives emissaries from a secret correspondent in the Welsh Republican Army. This can, however, be no other than Mr. Morris, of desperate aspect, who lives significantly close to a territorial barracks and who can be seen entering the Mitre Tavern with trilby pulled well down over his eyes and his overcoat collar turned up. Here he meets his fellow conspirators to drink symbolic draughts of Guinness and mutter furtively amongst themselves.

Mr. Mitchell has arrived at Merton but he will be kept on the way that is straight by his experiences in the R.A.F. police. Mr. Dodd, too, is aloof from such plebeian plotting, for his elegant air and sartorial propriety are matched in our company only by Mr. Cook, whose trousers become narrower each term. With this gentleman at Queen's is Mr. Barber, who has finally come over to freedom in the West, bringing with him his wife. Together they entertain hardy travellers to dinner at their outpost on the Woolwich Road, and listen to the Goon Show on their tropical radio.

Such gastronomic pleasures do not please Mr. Silverman, whose only food is the bean, a taste acquired during his early days with the R.A.F. Mr. Glover, also at Oriel, must dine more substantially; for six days does he labour at the faithful blade, and on the seventh he goes for a run. Mr. Dumbill was almost trapped into taking up this noble sport but slid away quickly and so escaped. His refusal to purchase a classical atlas because of his visit to Greece endeared him to his tutor and will surely open for him the road to academic distinction.

Mr. Ferdinand, Sir, has not the cunning of Mr. Dumbill and ended the term propelling a Jesus boat up the Isis cheered on by Mr. Jeffrey who dwells amongst the leeks. This exotic atmosphere obviously delights Mr. Owen for he is once more with us, his great maturity being reflected in his study of Child Psychology. He is now an elusive gentleman and is rarely seen in the social centres of our community. Perhaps Mr. Kenworthy, the doorkeeper at Corpus, could guide us to him, for he can undoubtedly see in the dark, an ability which enables him to commune with the Grey Eminence of his college Mr. Mackinnon, who is sometimes encountered on the High in summer, but seldom ventures forth in winter.

Not so Mr. Barnes, who breakfasts at eleven on Sundays in the Town and Gown and later imbibes in the Golden Cross or the Randolph, as befits a House man. Mr. Armstrong arrived at Wadham. Repairs are now taking place there. As we have no evidence of any connection between these events, we will charitably assume none.

Of Mr. Case nothing is known. In the past his ambition was to attain a higher consciousness. Perhaps, Sir, he has done so only by descending to our material world to dine at our ritual feast, for if he moves among us, he does so unobserved by mortal eye.

My story, Sir, is ended, my little sleep is finished, and I must wake; the vocation is upon me.

I am Sir, Yours faithfully,
BANDY.

CAMBRIDGE LETTER

Cambridge.

The Editor, The Liverpool Institute Magazine.

Sir,—We went into Woolworth's to buy you a Christmas card and were served by a Ph.D. of Girton; our stamp was sold us by an engineering student from Aberystwyth; our letter will be sorted by a theologian from Pasty House and delivered to you by a B.A. (Cantab.) now researching into Bunyan's minor works. So we know it's the good old Christmas vacation and England's intellectual youth goes augmenting its grant. Where are they now, that band of a dozen brothers, the Liobians in Cambridge?

In Harrods, in the G.P.O., in Forestry Camps and hotels in Penzance. Deserted now lie Mr. King's radio sets and Mr. Kirby's test tubes; Mr. Morris' blue and yellow taxi lies side by side in a garage with Mr. Magnay's desert-stained jeep; Mr. Howlett's Saville Row duffle-coat lies in moth balls with Mr. Jacobs' (nearly) Etonian tie. The Union committee-bench groans in relief with Mr. Bilson departed, and the dust lies lightly on the many flights of stairs to Mr. Cross' rooms in Queen's. And the young ones too—Mr. Bird, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Thomson, Mr. Quayle—have gone stardust-scattered to their homes.

They are gone now from this old city where B.B.C. Television is unseen and I.T.V. unappreciated because the electrical equipment at Pye's ruins the reception. But they have signed our Christmas card—eleven X's and one illegible signature—and here it is for you with a self-conscious "blwyddyn newydd dda" from Mr. Bilson who is wintering abroad—in Cardiff.

And what have they done this term to bring credit to their School? Let the real journalists speak. A happy new year to you, and we leave you with:

LIObIANS AND LIAbILITIES.

By CRESS-BUNCHER.

Child Roland at the dark tower Cam.

Who is it who heaps with honour the fair name of Liobia?

Who waves aloft the proud banner of "Non Nobis Solum Sed Toti Mundo Nati" and Empire?

Seek him not in Oxford.

Nor yet in Aberdeen.

For in Cambridge is he to be found.

* * * * *

Step forward, Mr. Magnay!

Recently returned from Cyrenaica from a mad pursuit of archaeology and Arab beauty is Mr. Magnay.

Now observe his ambitions.

Dr. Glyn Daniel, famous T.V. personality, is a Johnsman and an archaeologist. Why then Mr. Magnay's energy? He too is a Johnsman and an archaeologist. What's my line, Mr. Magnay?

* * * * *

New Man.

Who was Mr. Bilson?

He was (and is) the President of the University Liberal Club and Senior Committee member of the Union.

But who is this in green shirt and yellow tie who jives madly (and badly) in the cellar here? Can it be Mr. Bilson? Yes.

For he has a new love, and Free Trade is forgotten.

* * * * *

Old Adams.

"Sir" is the new name his friends have for Mr. King at Caius. For why? For Mr. King is a supervisor—and Mr. Kirby may well follow him.

Mark the name "Caius" (say it Keys), young man.

Bright and glittering are the jewels with which it crowns its scientists.

* * * * *

In Trinity too, Liobians flourish. Mr. Bird and Mr. Taylor share a taxi there. In Mr. Bird's trunk an R.A.F. uniform and a chess set; in Mr. Taylor's a supply of Continental paper-backed novels. In the college of Byron and Bertrand Russell, the Bird song is heard and as Mr. Taylor sews, so shall he reap.

* * * * *

They also run.

Shall the work be all in Liobian life?

Nay, let the spot-lights turn on Mr. Cross and Mr. Thomson, whose diet is glucose and whose dress is the maroon track suit.

Athletes both and not unrenowned. Nor could Mr. Thomson have arrived at a better time. For Cambridge athletes live in lean times while Oxford waxes fat.

Proudly too waves Mr. Jacobs' hockey stick at Selwyn.

Even Mr. Bilson in a scratch eleven beat Newnham 3-2 at hockey. Who was the idiot goal-keeper?

Mr. Bilson.

Thought for food.

Why is Mr. Morris so silent and unhappy these days?
Observe his college. It is Clare.
And at Clare one must learn to eat dinner without tasting it.

* * * *

Likewise at Pembroke where Mr. Howlett suffers. But he reads Russian.
And he cooks.

And this week's recipe for Suede Shoes à la Paprika Sloshnik in Izvestia was delicious.

* * * *

Food for thought.

What could Mr. Quayle at Christ's, a mathematician, do for civilisation?

Let him solve the equation
Grant—(College bill + one haircut)=overdraft.

* * * *

All is boom in the new Britain. State grants go up £9. College bills go up £10.

Sdx.

PREFECTS' LETTER

The Editor, The Liverpool Institute Magazine.

Sir,—Following the fashion in the popular Press of disclosing in intimate detail the private lives of the great ones of our nation, let us discard whatever superstition or respect may surround those who live in that haven of cultural ignorance and genteel vulgarity, the Prefects' Room, and reveal, with great inaccuracy and considerable malice, their innermost characters.

Let us first consider Mr. Norris, our chief of men, who in countenance indeed resembles those Greek Gods whose legendary exploits are his sole study and delight: Mr. Norris has abandoned his former profession of a trick-cyclist—your readers may remember how after one public demonstration of his act, he obtained a contract to appear regularly at his local hospital—and now devotes his leisure to cross-country running. Whether this change is necessitated by the loss of his bicycle, or by the demands of a General Paper is not known, but it is certain that Mr. Norris' ambition is to translate a mile of Virgil in four minutes.

Mr. Thomas, his second-in-command, has realised the futility of his attempt to add a cubit to his stature by taking thought, and concentrates now on the improvement of his driving. After a few practice runs against lamp-posts and such minor obstacles in his own district, he hopes to tackle the Victoria Monument and the Wellington Column in the near future.

Undoubtedly the most reserved of the Prefects is Mr. Bennett, who keeps his thoughts and his sandwiches strictly to himself. His determination to defend the freedom and prosperity of his country is, however, made obvious by his devotion to his scientific studies, and his reading the *Daily Express*. His fellow scientist, Mr. Wilson, is a *Manchester Guardian* type, and in his search for the secret of gracious living, he has been known to travel as far afield as Sheffield and Manchester. As keeper of the Prefectorial Purse, Mr. Wilson's would be the most envied position in the Prefects' hierarchy if their funds were solvent. Also concerned with mercenary matters is Mr. Fyans, who is only waiting for a suitable proposition before he begins to develop his beard commercially. This gentleman's imaginative suggestion, that an Espresso coffee machine should be installed in the Prefects' Room, was rejected, when it became known that the mysterious legend, 'Funzione Senza Vapore,' was a slogan of the EOKA terrorist movement.

A strange contrast with the hoary looks of Mr. Fyans, the cherubic countenance of Mr. Cowan belies his experience and wisdom, which he reveals in conversation. Mr. Cowan's peculiar problem is that the pressure of his leisure allows little time for work; he hopes to find a solution in a new interpretation of Omar Khayam's famous line:—

'A book of verse, a jug of wine, and thou.'

Chief among the actors of the Prefectorial Body is Mr. Kennerley, whose performance in the approaching School play is anticipated joyfully, but somewhat inaccurately by some of the younger members of the School; this gentleman's claims to fame are not entirely histrionic, however, for he is the leader of a troupe of small boys who can simultaneously perform as a choir, compete as a running team, and form a straight line in the lower yard.

Mr. Whiting possesses a similarly remarkable versatility, and is one of those few who can 'sport with Amaryllys in the shade' while 'strictly meditating the thankless Muse' without an adverse effect on his health or mind; whereas the only figures which interest Messrs. Rosenhead and Jack are mathematical. Indeed, little is known of these two gentlemen, except that they are mathematicians—hardly a desirable attribute—and nobody would be surprised if they were discovered to be the same person living a Jekyll and Hyde existence—or should it be Bubble and Squeak?

Mr. Hallam is another mathematician, and, what is worse, a footballer. These are, however, his only vices, and the influence of Mr. Grace—who, as a cricket-playing English student, may be considered a true gentleman—is sure to eliminate them. Mr. Grace's only cause for shame is that his grandfather has now taken employment as Father Christmas in a large department store.

Mr. Butlin, of whom there are two, sings bass and plays table tennis; with his brother he hopes one day to repeat the feats of the Rowe twins while singing the Gendarmes' duet.

There now remain only those two military gentlemen, Messrs. Flack and Berry, both of whom are eminently honourable and gallant. Mr. Berry has been to Spain, and since his return can talk of nothing but the *carpes*, while Mr. Flack spent the recent vacation employed with a shipping company as a fog signal. But softly! In the event of any military coup in the School, these high-ranking officers would be most powerful, and I must say no more.

My account, Sir, is thus finished; but if I am able to preserve my anonymity while furthering my investigations, I shall report again in your next issue; until then, Mr. Editor, I remain,

Your Most Humble and Obedient Servant.

ATTICUS.

THUNDERSTORM

Heavens rending, clashing;
Lightning dazzling, flashing;
Thunderstorm!

Rivers swelling, rushing;
Trees bending, brushing;
Thunderstorm!

Torrents tipping, teeming;
Raindrops pouring, gleaming;
Thunderstorm!

Clouds scudding, flying;
Sun following, drying;
Thunderstorm!

Ditches flooding, filling;
Streamlets hasting, spilling;
Thunderstorm!

Calm descending;
Clear skies ending
Thunderstorm.

A. M. ZALIN (L5Sc).

SPORTING CIRCLES

If mathematics is your game
And Rugby you delight in,
What finer sight is there to see
Than four three-quarters breaking free;
Two halves that play as one.

Eight forwards pushing in the scrum,
One full back with his coat off,
Bring fifteen names upon the card,
An oval ball to make it hard
And points that tot up madly.

Now Soccer is a different game;
It's on the level, that is "plane";
Geometry is more the thing,
With forwards standing in a ring,
Two wingers at a tangent.

A sphere to hit, an angled kick,
The 'keeper in his area;
The centre forward on the spot,
Which as you know, is just a dot
And has no real dimension.

Now players all, so we are told,
To find the right equation
Endeavour spend in form and field
In due proportion; this will yield
Success in happy measure.

P. J. DALTON (L5Sc).

THE CHARGE OF THE INSTITUTE BOYS

Half a step, half a step,
Half a step onward,
Into the Institute
Crushed the nine hundred.
"Quiet!" was the master's cry.
We dare not question why,
We have but to comply;
Into the Institute
Crushed the nine hundred.

Prefects to right of them
Prefects to left of them,
Prefects in front of them
Bellowed and thundered;
Plunging and pushing hard,

Breaking the Prefects' guard,
Scholars charged from the yard;
Into the Institute
Pushed the nine hundred.

Assembled calm in Hall,
The scholars, one and all,
Obeying culture's call,
Were ordered and seemly;
High spirits now subdued,
By discipline imbued,
Decorum was pursued,
As to their form rooms
Filed the nine hundred.

D. S. DAVIES (U5A).

REALISATION

The gravel crunched beneath my feet as I made my way up the winding drive. I mounted the steps and surveyed the view around me: the rambling Georgian house, the badly-kept drive, and the wide acres of open parkland stretched for miles on either hand. Certainly, I reflected, the Professor could not have chosen a more remote spot than this.

At my ring the housekeeper opened the door and, when I had given her my card, showed me into an anteroom.

"Professor Redfern isn't quite ready yet, sir," she said, and left me to myself in large armchair. I lit a cigarette and began to recall the sequence of events which had brought me to this unprecedented position.

At about six o'clock the night before, the telephone had rung.

"Is that you, Grant?" a voice enquired.

"Speaking," I replied.

"This is Nairn. You remember you were asking for an introduction to Professor Redfern? Well, I think I have obtained what you want."

I was elated. For some months now I had been hoping to write an article on the strangeness of Redfern's experiments, and here at last was an opportunity to collect some genuine material. I settled myself more comfortably in my chair.

"Can you let me have some background about the old man?" I asked. "I mean, how will he react to the intrusion of a mere feature-writer . . . ?"

"Oh, don't worry about that," Nairn interrupted, "he is a typical scientist, rather irritable at the layman's lack of knowledge, but quite amiable when you get to know him. Regarding the experiments, I think you know as much as I do. Briefly, he thinks he has discovered a method of extending human life by as much as fifty per cent."

"Yes, I know all that." I paused for a moment. "I also know," I continued, "that he is regarded as something of a crank in some circles."

"Don't let that worry you," Nairn laughed, "he's harmless enough. However, you had better know that you are privileged in being granted an interview, since this is the last experiment in the series. So be a credit to me."

"Thanks for the information," I replied.

"Glad to help you," he said. "Well, be at Redfern's house at three-thirty tomorrow. All the best, and don't let him use you as a guinea-pig."

I replaced the telephone in a daze, lost in thought.

* * *

A forbidding roll of thunder woke me from my day-dream. Outside, the sky had grown quite sullen, and presently large raindrops began to blur the window-pane. I rose from the armchair, switched on the light, and stubbed my cigarette. I wandered over to the bookcase by the window and looked at some of the many books in Redfern's collection. They were all concerned with the span of human life in one form or another. There were filing cabinets packed with notes, charts and many diagrams of various parts of the human body. The whole place gave forth the mysterious atmosphere of an exciting and important experiment: I was enthralled.

Eventually the housekeeper returned and took me to a sliding-door that led into the laboratory. Here I waited, and soon a red light flickered above the door. This was the signal for me to enter. I opened the door and stepped in.

The laboratory was huge and fantastic. Bench upon bench of complicated chemical apparatus unfolded before my startled eyes. There were towering retorts, yards and yards of glass-tubing and gallons and gallons of strange fluids. Yet the room held a mystic charm; the beauty of preparation for a "brave new world"; the fascination of a novel sight—I was overawed.

At the far end of the room was Redfern's main workplace. As I approached, I felt a surge of excitement rise within my breast. My heart beat more quickly and my feet moved faster. Then, like a cymbal crash in the middle of a delicate symphony, I stopped—I saw Redfern.

He was about sixty, with iron-grey hair swept back. He wore a bow-tie and white overalls. He sat, surrounded by mysterious machinery and apparatus, his eyes fixed on me in a long, hard stare.

His mouth was compressed tightly, and his hands were clenched in front of him. A half-drunk glass of pink liquid stood at his elbow on the bench. He had found the secret of eternal life—Death!

J. C. CUTHBERTSON.

WINTER

Winter's here, Winter's here,
The snow is falling fast,
The trees are bare, cold is the air,
For summer suns are past.

The water's freezing in the pipes,
The temperature is low,
We've shorter days, and longer nights,
And cold winds blow.

The squirrel's gathered in his nuts,
And birds have ceased to sing;
But we've something to look forward to,
For soon it will be Spring.

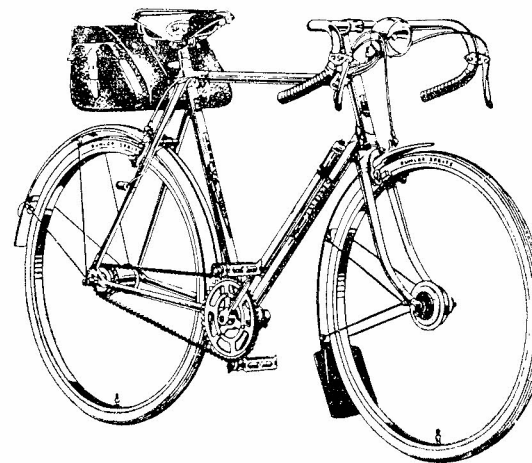
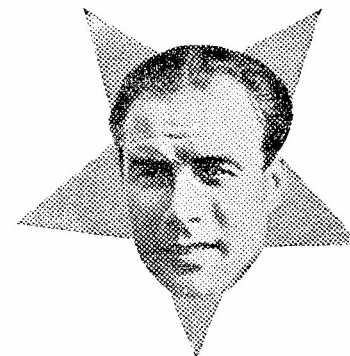
R. WARREN (4A).

RALEIGH

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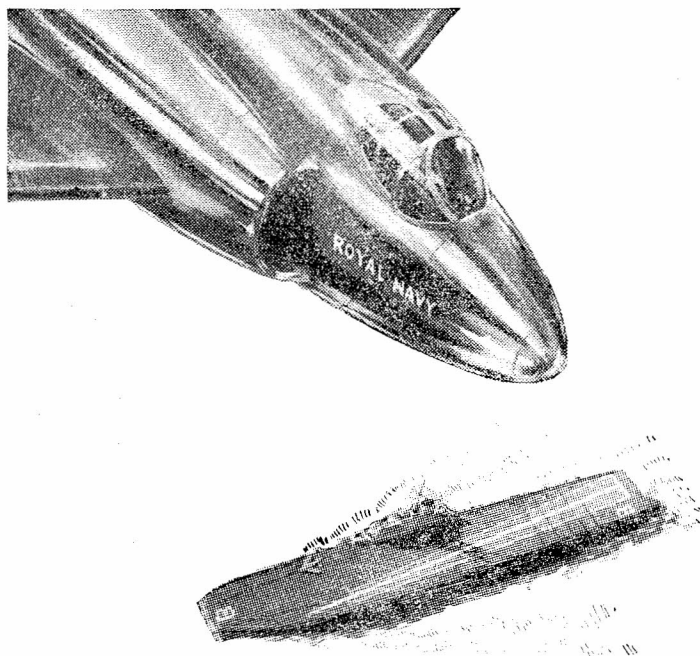
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