Jul 50

THE LINK

THE MAGAZINE OF
WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

VOL. XXXV JULY, 1950 NO. 1

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

Press Manager ... ... MR. S. COWAN
Treasurer ... ... MR. G. ELMS
Old Wandsworthians Representative ... ... MR. D. GRANT

CONTENTS

1—Headmaster's Notes ... Page 1
2—Avete Atque Valete 3
3—House Notes 4
4—The School Eisteddfod 7
5—General Election 10
6—Chess Club 11
7—Rugby Football 12
8—Wandsworth School Speech Day ... 14
9—Fencing 16
10—Cross Country 17
11—Fives 18
12—Boxing 18
13—The Man Who Enjoyed Ill Health ... 19
14—The Parents' Association 20
15—Old Wandworthians 21
16—Verse 22
17—The Wandsworthians Lodge ... 24

THE LINK

The Magazine of

WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

Vol. XXXV **JULY, 1950** **No. 1**

HEADMASTER'S NOTES

First of all to record a notable academic achievement: D. R. Horner, I. Maclean and J. C. Grieves have all been accepted for admission to Cambridge University. In view of the fact that of qualified applicants only one in twelve is accepted at Cambridge, we must attribute their selection to the possession of unusual qualities and from my correspondence with the Cambridge tutors, it is evident that they were impressed with the intellectual zest and the social qualities of these three prefects of ours.

And indeed in the various fields of school activity Horner, Head Prefect this year, Maclean Second Prefect and Grieves Third Prefect have made their mark here. They now have their reward. We shall follow their careers at Cambridge with expectation of high achievements there too.

Congratulations to Nelson Frank Roberts on gaining one of this year's L.C.C. Travel Scholarships for Modern Languages—in the case of Roberts for a stay of two months or so in France.

The School will hear with regret of the resignation of Mrs. Ponsonby from the Governing Body on which she has served so loyally for the past fifteen years. We earnestly hope that her health will improve and that before long she will be able to take her place again. I take the liberty of quoting a short passage from a letter she wrote to the Chairman of Governors:

> " My connection with Wandsworth School is now, I think, of 15 years' duration, long enough to learn how its high educational standard and fine spirit have been achieved. As year by year I have seen the boys at the Prize Giving, I have realised that by the time they reach the Sixth Form, manliness, intelligence and a sense of responsibility have been developed in them. What more could one ask of a school?"

—words that should stir all our hearts with a due sense of pride and spur us all on to prove individually worthy of them.

There are two resignations pending from the permanent staff of the School: Mr. Tribe and Mr. Robilliard.

Mr. Tribe is by far the " oldest inhabitant " and joined the staff at the beginning of 1907. He is, therefore, in his forty-fourth year here. We shall be losing him on September 12th, just after the beginning of next term. There will be a later occasion to pay our tribute to his long and loyal service. His successor is Mr. H. G. Hall, an experienced Handicraft Master of the highest qualifications.

We are sorry to say good-bye this term to Mr. A. H. S. Robilliard, who joined the staff in January 1947 after a year here as student-teacher from the Institute of Education. His vigour and enterprise and unstinted devotion of his time and energies to the service of the School have been greatly appreciated and will be much missed. He has accepted a post at the Wildernesse Secondary Modern School near his home in Seven-

oaks. We wish him every happiness and success in his new job. He will save some four hours daily travelling, an unrewarding business, though in order to do so he must perforce go out into the Wildernesse.

His successor, Mr. A. Robertson, has emulated his example in being advanced from student master to a post on the staff.

Another newcomer next term will be Dr. B. G. Brooks, who follows Mr. Wells and Mr. Badcock in occupying the temporary vacancy caused by the secondment of Mr. Travers to the O.E.E.C.

The Wandsworthians' Memorial Fund is indebted to the School Dramatics Society for a cheque for £27 2s. 8d., the proceeds of the two productions of "The Man who Enjoyed Ill-Health."

A well deserved tribute is due to the catering staff of the School. At their Spring Term Meeting, the Governors recorded their appreciation of the services of Mrs. Catchpole, the Supervisor, and Mrs. Say, the Cook, and her staff. We have found them most co-operative and helpful.

In future, we propose to resume the pre-war practice of publishing The Link every term, that is three times a year. This is no light undertaking, as owing to greatly increased costs of production, The Link has been run at a deficit since the War.

Another important area of School activity where, especially since the institution of recent official measures of financial economy, we are faced with a deficit is the running of School clubs and societies, the organisation of educational visits, and the cost of travel and hospitality incurred in games and other fixtures with other schools.

No one with a sense of the vital importance of these features in the life of a Grammar School and the unique opportunities they offer to boys, would wish to see them curtailed in any way. And since the Masters are prepared to give freely and abundantly of their own time and services, the parents, I am sure, will be willing to make a modest contribution to enable them to carry on.

I am, therefore, circularising all parents, with the backing of the Parents' Council, requesting them to make a contribution of half-a-crown per term, which shall entitle their boys to a terminal issue of The Link and cover an amalgamated subscription to a School Fund from which all these activities and amenities will be subsidised. This is a very small tariff for the abundant fare provided.

The Annual General Meeting of the Parents' Association afforded a very happy and enjoyable social evening to the quite good number who attended. Mr. Lincé's offices as compère and the staff Brains Trust were highly appreciated. These informal gatherings of parents with the staff should not be missed. It is hardly necessary to remind all parents that they are ipso facto members of the Parents' Association, and that its funds, contributed by voluntary subscription, are used for the benefit of all boys in the School, as is made clear in the report of its Hon. Secretary, Mr. Scott, in this issue.

Prizes for writing up the "Week in Industry" at Sheffield last July have been awarded to B. G. Light (First), J. C. Grieves, R. C. A. Attoe and D. V. Stacey (shared Second), and for photographic record to D. G. Fenton (First).

This Summer Term visit is being made to Swansea: Messrs. Keyte and Robilliard and Dr. Solomon are accompanying.

A number of our boys are joining with boys of the Technical Branch to make up a party of 30 for a holiday in Switzerland (Montreux) in August. They will travel across France by motor coach, staying for the night in Rouen and Paris on the way out and back.

The School had a large representation at the Christmas Conference for Sixth Forms, organised by the Council for Education in World Citizenship. As a member of the Management Committee of the C.E.W.C. I am pleased to record this.

Congratulations to the School Chess Team and to Dr. Solomon upon coming through its fixture list with 8 wins, 1 draw and no defeats.

Mr. Levy and the School Fencing Club are to be complimented on the grand display of fencing by members of the British Olympic Team and others of similar calibre on the occasion of the first School Fencing Championship competition.

Since the last appearance of The Link, we have had another of those delightful short concerts afforded to us by the London County Council. This time we had the MacGibbon Quartette.

The contemporaries of Ronald Edwin Head will be interested to know that on 18th December, 1949, he was ordained Deacon for Ministry in the parish of St. Peter Vauxhall.

Owing to depletion of its ranks through leaving, the Prefectorial body was revised half-way through the Summer Term. The present list is:

Head Prefect: Peter H. Scott. Second Prefect: James E. K. Francis. Full Prefects: Jerzy Dobrowolski, D. G. Fenton, A. B. Cullum, T. D. Dore, K. H. W. Johnson, D. R. Thorpe, D. Richardson, K. W. Bush, D. V. Stacey, P. J. Whitfield, B. G. Light, R. E. Williams. Sub-Prefects: R. C. A. Attoe, N. F. Roberts, J. G. Morris. New Sub-Prefects: D. Maclean, M. Grazynski, R. H. Bartlett, G. W. Bliss, A. Vila, K. M. Line, A. L. Miles, G. W. Carter.

AVETE ATQUE VALETE

The following have been admitted since the last issue of The Link:

Bergson, A. C.	Morgon, K. J. B.	Ransome, P.
Eastwood, P. L.	Pearce, N. C.	Rose, F. C.
Fayed, R.	Quandt, P. J. A.	Walker, K.

The following have left:

Amer, R. H. J.	Grieves, J. C.	Sheridan, L. G. F.
Broome, K. R.	Hardy, B. W. J.	Singleton, J. R.
Broughton, I. L.	Harrison, S. F.	Smithson, J.
Bush, D. L.	Hedges, T. E.	Stainton, M. P.
Clayton, D. A.	Jenkinson, P. L.	Steel, D. A.
Cook, J. H. E.	Lightman, W.	Stokes, T. J.
Cooke, M. B. H.	Maclean, I.	Vick, R. H.
Cottle, K. L.	Mellish, D. C.	Waters, R. O.
Croucher, T. D.	O'Leary, R. W.	Wood, P. D.
Ehrlich, F. A.	Purkiss, T. C.	Yadgaroff, E. A. J.
Emeny-Smith, R. S.	Reed, J. F.	Zelos, E. J. M.
Friday, J. T.	Reeves, J. A.	
Gibbons, J. C.	Ryan, P. E.	

HOUSE NOTES

CROMWELL

During the Spring Term it was our sad duty to bid farewell to Mr. Fenn as housemaster as he has taken over the impartial position of deputy headmaster. His work for the House will long remain in the memory of present—and past—members of Cromwell. We welcome Mr. Clode as his successor and trust that he will receive the enthusiastic support that we feel sure his leadership will warrant. This term also saw the loss to H.M. Forces of two Cromwellians whose services to both the House and School set an example for all to follow, I. Maclean and J. C. Grieves. Our heartiest congratulations to them both on gaining entrance to Cambridge after the completion of their term of military service.

Now to sport. I. Maclean's efforts for the House senior rugby team led to three overwhelming victories over our opponents. This alone, however, was not sufficient to win us the championship. The over-all results gave us second place to Pitt by a very narrow margin.

For the third successive year the Boxing Shield remains in our possession. P. J. Whitfield must be congratulated on his leadership in this competition and also for reaching the final stage of the Great Britain championships.

In the Cross-country we again had to be content with second place. Elliott, the first Cromwell boy home, was third. The senior team was rather under strength and they too were second. Congratulations to D. G. Maclean who scored a decisive individual victory, and to Oulds who came second.

We were forced to surrender the Eisteddfod trophy for the first time since the competition was started four years ago. We did reasonably well in the team events, but the number of individual entries was not as great as could be desired. The House musicians, under the able guidance of Bush and Challice, brought us our only sectional win. It is to be hoped that this reverse will serve as a reminder that we must not be too complacent about our chances of victory in any competition.

In spite of being only third in the athletic standards we eventually gained the Sports Shield for the third year running, a notable performance. No one contributed more to our success than D. G. Maclean, our captain, and he received due reward when winning the Shapcott Cup.

Our chess team, captained by D. S. Thorpe, tied for first place with Pitt in the Inter-House competition, but lost the play-off.

Congratulations to M. Grazynski, the first School fencing champion, and to J. C. Grieves as runner-up.

I have left the most serious matter until last. In many past editions of The Link appeals have been made for greater efforts in Diligence, and the result has been almost negligible. Let us all make a really great effort next year in what is, after all, the most important branch of school life: namely: work! P.H.S.

GIBBON

Unfortunately, the Gibbon House notes again present a dismal tale of lack of success due to want of enthusiasm. However, there is one bright light in the gloomy depths of third and fourth positions in most of the activities this year; this is the walk-away victory of both senior and junior teams in the Inter-House cross-country. In the senior, Phelps, 3rd; Hatley, D., 7th; Arnold, 8th; Quinsey, 10th; Norman, 11th; Bartlett, 12th; Cremonesi, 15th and Harrison, 23rd, were the first eight home. In the junior, Pettican, 1st; and Patterson, 2nd, broke the School record. Other points scorers were Willson, 6th; Tilley, 9th; Lightfoot, a first-former, 10th; Helm, 13th; Ellis, 16th and Maxted, 21st.; Combined total 167, with Cromwell 2nd with 264.

In the Autumn Term the House rugby teams lost nearly all their matches but mainly through lack of talent.

For some of the senior games Johnson, the captain, could not find fifteen who could play rugby.

In the Spring Term, came the Eisteddfod, in which some good efforts were made, especially by the speech-choir in the able hands of Stanley; but as the actors would not learn their lines or turn up for rehearsals, the play had to be abandoned. The boxing team came last, largely through lack of talent, but Brodie, Willson, D., Friday and Quested managed to win their finals.

In the Summer Term, for the second year in succession, we were last in the athletics. Congratulations to Francis who reached a total of 29 points, 9 uppers and 1 lower in the hurdles.

We did especially well in the under 12½ section, although I should have liked to have seen more first-formers on the track. Rye won the 75 yards and long jump, and Lightfoot won the high jump. Able support was given to these two by Pierce, 4th, 75 yards, and 2nd, high jump, and Watts, 3rd, long jump. Other winners were Williams, R. E. (100 yards and 220 yards, senior), Bartlett (high jump, senior) and Francis (long jump, senior). Phelps and Tilley each gained two seconds.

We consider that we have an excellent chance to retain the Cricket Shield, having four all-rounders in our senior team in Johnson, Dries, Bartlett and Williams.

Let us hope that the future holds more success than this year and that the enthusiasm displayed in cross-country running and cricket will spread to other activities.

R. BARTLETT.

MORLEY

At long last, after much pressure and persuasion, Morley House has succeeded in winning one of the School's major annual events. The Eisteddfod offers more scope for talents than any other of the School events. Throughout the whole Eisteddfod week Cromwell, Pitt and Morley were all very close as far as total points were concerned and no one could possibly have forecast the final result. The dramatic section was held at the end of the week and therefore the whole result depended on the houses' actors. B. G. Light produced, and took part in, a one-act Irish play with a cast of four, which succeeded in gaining first place. B. G. Light, who took the principal rôle, J. A. Totham, as the burly sergeant, and D. J. French and G. Contreras, as the two constables, all put up splendid performances.

Now comes a rather depressing list of competition results. Morley came second in boxing and the athletics, third in rugby and fourth in the cross-country run and the chess.

In the cross-country run K. J. Sperger, who came sixth, was the first Morley runner to finish, whilst the rest came straggling nowhere. The athletics proved more exciting. Morley were leading in Standards points at the beginning of the Sports Day remained near, or in, the lead until the final events, when Cromwell gained first position. Many Morley athletes put up commendable performances and are to be congratulated.

So, that Morley House has no exceptional performance to her credit is due mainly to lack of unity and integration in the House. The majority of Morley boys are quite content to leave all the work to a minority of willing and enthusiastic people to whom Morley House means something. Notice that these few boys are not necessarily the best boys but they are the most willing. There lies the moral of these notes.

B.G.L.

PITT

Pitt is " Cock-House " of the year. At last we have routed the Cromwellians.

But we have started the New Year rather poorly with the sports, coming third. We were only half a point behind Morley, and were only 1 point behind in the Standards. But the fault lay with the seniors. With more effort from them in the Standards and in their training we could at least have come second. Gale distinguished himself in the hurdles, equalling the School record. Cracknell, Szyjkowski and Herbert were unlucky, all having mishaps which prevented them from winning their events.

In the Eisteddfod we did well, coming second. At last the House has come out of the rut of third place. Again we could have won if the whole House had tried.

Dobrowolski and his team deserve special praise for winning the Chess competition. It was a very evenly divided contest; indeed a re-play with Cromwell was needed to decide the winners. That we won was to a large extent due to the keenness of the team captain, " Dob."

As expected, we won the rugger. The Colts won all their matches very easily, under the leadership of Cracknell. The pack fed their backs well and the scores went mounting up. This shows how team-spirit and practices give confidence and faith in " the other chaps "—and win matches. The seniors won two of the three matches but lost the last one against Cromwell. We started this match, which was degrading for the whole School, let alone Pitt House, with only 13 men, some being only juniors. This match marred an otherwise good House-rugger season.

In the House cross-country we came a poor third; this again was due to lack of support for the captains. We congratulate D'Archambaud, who came home 4th in the whole senior field, a very good performance for a 4th former. In the juniors, Smith, R., and Prangnell finished 4th and 5th respectively.

We rounded-off a successful year by winning the Diligence Trophy, again well led by Pitt, C. To repeat: Pitt became " Cock-House " and dethroned Cromwell.

If this all-round improvement continues, we may have seen an alteration in the cricket results by the time this issue comes out.

Again the Swimming Shield can be won. We have a good leader in A. Vila, but a lot depends on how the House supports its team by giving it a wide lead in the Standards.

One last point. Why can't we have more response from the Senior School? It does well, but not as well as it might. It is therefore up to the Juniors to set the example. But don't let us end on a sombre note. Pitt is " Cock-House." See that we remain so.

A.V. and D.V.S.

THE SCHOOL EISTEDDFOD

Although the conditions, set pieces and allocation of rooms for after-school practices were published by the organising committee very early in the term, little opportunity was afforded for group training in drama, choral speaking and singing until after Speech Day. For this reason great credit must be given to the boys responsible for organising and producing these items, without any help from the masters, in so short a time. It is in this way that many a leader, conductor or coach has found self-confidence that might not have been otherwise discovered.

The Inter-House Drama Competition took place on Monday evening, 3rd April, in the School Hall and this was followed on Tuesday evening by the Exhibition and Concert, under the chairmanship of Mr. R. Fenn. Both evenings afforded a very enjoyable climax to the whole festival and, as usual, attracted a large gathering of parents and friends. During the evening the Eisteddfod Trophy was presented by Mrs. H. A. King to T. Dore, the captain of Morley House, this year's winners.

Particular features of the Exhibition were: the display of art, photography, collections and models in the art room; a model railway display in the chemistry laboratory; a gymnastic display in the gymnasium and a special show of models and exhibits in connection with the School's visit to Sheffield.

G.E.

LITERATURE

The entries this year were more numerous than for some years past and generally of a higher quality. A notable feature was the large number of entries from juniors, including many verse efforts. In both the senior and junior grades there was not a single entry in the Imaginary Conversation Section which, at first sight, seems a very attractive subject. None of the entries in the Junior Creepy Story Section gave the judge a sleepless night, while some of the Senior Essays proved a useful night-cap. Horner, who was first in both Essay and Original Story, did the most outstanding work among the seniors and Bliss's Original Story was worthy of mention. Livingstone's Essay, too, was of good quality. Pleasing verse was written by Clapton and Gosden among the seniors and L. Bicknell among the juniors.

On the whole an encouraging year.

J.A.

SPEECH

Solo reading, though it attracted fewer entries than last year, showed that our best readers are well able to render difficult material with feeling and lucidity. Seniors, intermediates and juniors all afforded much pleasure to their judges. Public speaking, an art we have always held to be an essential for grammar school boys, attracted few, but very good entries, and we could wish some of our politicians and broadcasters were only half as accomplished as Horner and Stanley who tied for first place or Williams, R. E., who came third. Gibbon and Cromwell were very close competitors at a good level for first place in choral speaking, Gibbon being placed first on better all-round effort. Morley made a good third and Pitt, who came fourth, gave a fair performance.

T.B.

DRAMA

Drama this year showed a clear improvement over the rather low standard of some of last year's plays, largely because the Eisteddfod Committee insisted on the use of good plays and the actors realised that learning their lines was only a beginning. Light made a very good job of "The Rising of the Moon" to win this competition for Morley. The acting was adequate and the producer remembered that the theatre is a visual art, so that grouping, scenery and lighting served to reinforce the lines. Cromwell's production of "The Rehearsal" made a good second and Pitt's "Scenes from 'As You Like It'" was placed third.

T.B.

ART

Although the entry this year was smaller than it usually is, the standard was high. Among outstanding items were the entries of French 5B (MD) in the painting section. These were various in subject, quite ambitious and well worked out. Gugan 2B (CB) submitted four excellent paintings as did Szyikowski 2A (PA) . Reeve 3D (CB) had one quite outstanding design. There were also two very attractive paintings by Unger 2A (PA). In the drawing section excellent work in portraiture was done by Tyne 4B (MC) and York 4A (GC), while Gilbart 3B (GA) continues to send in interesting and sensitive work.

The poster section was not particularly well done and Light 6 (MD) and French 5B (MD) were among the few who did work worthy of mention. The design section showed a better standard. Nesbitt 4A (PC) and two younger boys, Hoffman 2D (CA) and Dean 2B (MB) who both did delightful work occur to me, though there was much care and effort put into this section as a whole. Pitt well deserved to win.

A.H.

HOBBIES

The winning entries in each group were of a high standard. Visitors who saw the exhibits were much impressed by M. J. Kelly's diesel-propelled Pterodactyl, and M. H. Mullins's accurate model of a U.S. Army Field Unit. B. A. M. Cordery's table lamp showed that hobbies can have great practical value. S. F. Weber exhibited a fine collection of Swiss stamps, and K. D. Kreuchen of German stamps. T. Ridgwell's collection of insects was obviously the result of much patient and careful work. The photographs showed an increased understanding of the meaning of composition, and the selection of viewpoint. I. Maclean exhibited mountain views, P. Dorrell scenes from school life, and R. E. Williams views of the Thames. Mention should also be made of one excellent entry by R. Arnold, a still-life study.

A.M.L.

MUSIC

Good musicianship and organisation by Bush (C), Trebble (M), and Williams (G), resulted in a close finish for their respective Houses, Gibbon's entry into the skirmish for first place being new.

The less said about Pitt, the better. They had one entry.

The vocal items were good.

The quartet, "Say, love, if ever . . .," by John Dowland, was sung with refinement and expression under the direction of Williams, whilst Sheridan's famous drinking song, "Here's to the Maiden of Bashful Fifteen," rollicked and roared along in time with tankards waving under the inspired conducting and stage-management of Bush. A condition in the competition was the employment of solo voices, and it was pleasing to hear so many voices of quality in the senior school.

The junior unison song, "Widdicombe Fair," went well in all three houses, but much more could have been made of the dramatic possibilities.

Pianoforte entries were fewer this year, but the standard was maintained. Lack of entries for the duet was disappointing.

One is glad to report a considerable advance on last year's standard of violin playing, but there is still vast room for improvement, particularly in the matter of intonation, where any lack of conscience is disastrous. Morley must be praised for winning all four places in the junior section. Three were from Form 2A.

Tune-writing was introduced this year. There were few entries. Savage (2A) deserves congratulation for his setting of "Lullaby" and "The Owl and the Pussy Cat," though his disregard for the upper limit of a treble voice made a transposition necessary for concert performance.

Thanks are due to Trebble for accompanying so admirably at the Eisteddfod concert.

J.K.

RESULTS

MUSIC (Judges: Mr. J. Keyte and Dr. J. D. Solomon). Vocal Quartet: 1, Gibbon House; 2, Cromwell House. Unison Song (Sen.): 1, Cromwell; 2, Morley, 4, Gibbon. (Jun.): 1, Cromwell and Gibbon; 3, Morley. Piano Solo (Inter.): 1, A. E. Trebble (M); 2, R. W. Edwards (C); 3, R. Bullen (C); 4, A. J. Taylor (G). (Jun.): 1, M. H. R. Earle (M); 2, P. Davey (M); 4, K. G. Easey (C). Violin Solo (Inter.): 1, G. R. Williams (G); 2, D. J. Toomer (P); 3, J. R. Challice (C); 4, D. J. French (M). (Jun.): 1, G. D. Wrench (M); 2, D. A. Richards (M); 3, A. C. Savage (M); 4, C. E. Morgan (M). Violin Duet: 1, J. R. Challice (C) and G. R. Williams (G). Tune Writing: 1, A. C. Savage (M) and K. W. Bush (C); 4, D. A. Richards (M).

LITERATURE (Judge: Mr. J. Ascher). Essay: 1, D. R. Horner (P); 2, D. I. Livingstone (C); 3, C. Macleod (C); 4, F. H. Nunan (C). Original Story (Sen.): 1, D. R. Horner (P); 2, G. W. Bliss (G); 3, C. B. Gosden (M); 4, J. C. Gibbons (M). (Jun).: 1, G. C. Brooks (P); 2, J. C. Yateman (P); 3, R. W. Griffiths (C); 4, A. E. Preston (M). Original Poem (Sen.): 1, B. Clapton (C); 2, C. B. Gosden (M); 4, D. T. Miller (M) and J. A. Nesbitt (P). (Jun.): 1, L. E. J. Bicknell (C); 2, A. E. Wrigglesworth (P); 3, M. R. Garrett (M); 4, A. C. Savage (M).

SPEECH (Judges: The Headmaster, Messrs. T. G. Benyon and R. Levy). Solo Reading (Sen.): 1, D. R. Horner (P); 2, W. M. Stanley (G); 3, G. E. Contreras (M); 4, D. I. Livingstone (C) and J. A. Totham (M). (Inter.): 1, T. R. Wright (G); 2, D. J. A. Livingstone (C); 3, J. W. Bloss (M); 4, C. B. Gosden (M). (Jun.): 1, G. D. Wrench (M); 2, A. E. Preston (M); 3, D. A. Richards (M); 4, A. D. S. Brinkley (C). Public Speaking: 1, D. R. Horner (P) and W. M. Stanley (G); 3, R. E. Williams (G); 4, R. G. A. Attoe (P). Merit points, C. Macleod (C). Choral Speaking: 1, Gibbon; 2, Cromwell; 3, Morley; 4, Pitt.

DRAMA (Judges: Miss M. Black, Mrs. H. R. King and Mrs. Fisher): 1, Morley; 2, Cromwell; 3, Pitt.

ART (Judges: Messrs. S. Cowan and A. Hodgkinson). Painting (Sen.): 1, D. J. French (M); 2, A. G. York (G); 3, J. A. Nesbitt (P) and J. Krasnodebski (C); 4, J. A. Bruce (P). (Inter.): 1, D. T. King (P); 2, M. J. Rawlings (P); 3, G. R. Reeve (C) and A. G. E. Watson (M), 4, J. R. Davison (P). (Jun.): 1, W. T. Szyjkowski (P); 2, J. F. Unger (P); 3, K. Gugan (C); 4, G. A. Watts (G). Drawing (a) (Sen.): 1, J. R. Tyne (M); 2, A. G. York (G); 3, M. R. Mattey (M); 4, J. A. G. West (C); (b) Sen.): 1, J. A. Nesbitt (P); 2, F. H. Nunan (C). (Inter.): 1, J. F. Gilbart (G); 2, J. R. Davison (P). (Jun.): 1, P. M. Hoffman (C); 2, R. S. Dean (M); 3, G. B. Dodge (G). Lino-Cut (Sen.): 2, R. C. Hathaway (C). (Inter.): 1, J. F. Gilbart (G); 3, P. W. Elliott (M). (Jun): 1, G. E. Tonks (G); 2, M. A. Carney (P). Poster (Sen.): 1, G. B. Light (M); 2, D. J. French (M); 3, B. V. Morell (P); 4, J. A. Bruce (P). Design (Sen.): 1, J. A. Nesbitt (P); 3, J. C. Yateman (P). (Inter.): 1, C. G. Hardy (P); 2, E. A. Hulley (G). (Jun.): 2, K. Gugan (C).

HOBBIES (Judges: Messrs. K. Catto, K. Coate-Bond, A. P. Culverwell, J. Makin, S. Robilliard, P. Tribe). Stamps (Sen.): 1, S. F. Weber (P); 4, A. C. Wells (P). (Jun.): 1, K. D. Kreuchen (G); 2, J. S. Edwell (M); 3, B. G. Hayden (M); 4, P. E. Triggs (P) and V. G. Essex (M). Collections (Sen.): 2, P. D. Wood (M). (Jun.): 1, T. Ridgwell P; 2, P. R. Dry (P); 3, J. M. Gooders (M); 4, T. R. Udall (C). Original Models (Sen.): 1, M. T. Kelly (P); 2, B. R. Richards (M). (Jun.): 1, M. H. Mullins (P); 2, D. T. King (P); 3, J. N. Crowther (G); 4, J. F. Gilbart (G). Honorable mention: K. A. C. Matthews (C), P. F. G. Dorrell (M), B. G. Hayden (M), P. E. Triggs (P), R. S. Hore (M), J. F. Unger (P), G. R. Williams (G), T. Ridgwell (P), P. A. Lee (C), A. N. Chalk (G). Assembled Models (Sen.): 2, P. J. Hale (P). (Jun.): 1, B. A. M. Cordery (M); 2, R. G. Hall (C); 3, A. G. E. Watson (M); 4, R. D. King (G). Photography, Processed by Competitor (Sen.): 1, R. E. Williams (G); 2, R. Arnold (G); 3, D. G. Fenton (C). (Jun.): 1, P. F. G. Dorrell (M); 2, G. R. Williams (G). Processed Commercially (Sen.): 1, I. Maclean (C); 2, G. V. Whitfield (C); 3, A. Vila (P). (Jun.): P. F. G. Dorrell (M); 2, D. E. J. Bicknell (C).

SUMMARY OF RESULTS, Final Position: 1st, Morley; 2nd, Pitt; 3rd, Cromwell; 4th, Gibbon. Music: 1st, Cromwell; 2nd, Morley; 3rd, Gibbon; 4th, Pitt. Literature: 1st, Pitt; 2nd, Cromwell; 3rd, Morley; 4th, Gibbon. Speech: 1st, Gibbon; 2nd, Morley; 3rd, Cromwell; 4th, Pitt. Drama: 1st, Morley; 2nd, Cromwell; 3rd, Pitt. Art: 1st, Pitt; 2nd, Gibbon; 3rd, Morley; 4th, Cromwell. Hobbies: 1st, Pitt; 2nd, Morley; 3rd, Gibbon; 4th, Cromwell.

EISTEDDFOD—HOUSE OFFICERS. Music.—Cromwell: K. W. Bush and J. R. Challice. Gibbon: J. R. Williams and T. R. Wright. Morley: A. E. Trebble. Pitt: N. F. Roberts. Drama—Cromwell: I. Maclean. Gibbon: B. F. Tyson. Morley: B. G. Light. Pitt: D. V. Stacey. Speech—Cromwell: P. H. Scott. Gibbon: W. M. Stanley. Morley: R. M. Vick. Pitt: K. M. Line. Co-ordinator—Cromwell: I. Maclean. Gibbon: J. F. K. Francis. Morley: T. Dore. Pitt: P. L. Jenkinson.

GENERAL ELECTION

On Tuesday, the 14th of February, the senior forms of Wandsworth School held their own election. The preparations had conformed, as far as possible, to the authentic procedure, and by the closing date five candidates had been duly nominated and their names, with those of their seconders, submitted to the Returning Officer, Mr. Payne. The parties in the field were:—Labour, represented by J. C. Hodgson; Independent, represented by D. Maclean; British Socialist, represented by I. Maclean; Liberal, represented by C. Macleod; and Conservative, represented by W. Stanley.

Before the election-date parties had shown their enthusiasm by appointing agents and officials, by displaying home-made posters and by holding party meetings in which the party policies were put before the electorate which consisted of the fourth, fifth and sixth forms.

On the day of the poll Mr. Fenn, as chairman, stressed the importance of a mock election in the life of the School as a useful preparation for active participation in real General Elections. After he had outlined the procedure of the meeting he handed over the chair to Mr. Payne, who called upon the candidates to present their policies; lots having been drawn in advance to decide the order of speaking.

After the five candidates had made their speeches, their supporters spoke further on their policies. The Chairman then invited questions and speeches from the floor. Several boys made useful contributions, amidst frequent interruptions, before the meeting was concluded with further stout speeches by the five candidates, who were suitably congratulated by the Chairman.

A realistic polling-booth and a convincing ballot box, supplied by Mr. Tribe, enabled the electorate to record their votes before departing. The votes were counted by Mr. Aubrey the next day when the Returning Officer declared the following result (the leading candidate winning on a minority vote):—1, W. Stanley (Cons.), 63; 2, J. C. Hodgson (Lab.), 49; 3, C. Macleod (Lib.), 22; 4, I. Maclean (Brit. Soc.), 21; 5, D. Maclean (Indep.), 4; spoiled papers, 2; absentees and non-voters, 18; qualified voters, 179.

D. R. HORNER.

CHESS CLUB

Captain, J. Dobrowolski; Vice-captain and Hon. Secretary, R. Williams.

The season just concluded has beaten all post-war records. The School team has played more Inter-School chess matches than during any other season since the war.

These are the details: Played 17; won 13, drawn 2, lost 2.

Since the last issue of The Link the following fixtures have taken place:

Jan. 20. v. Tiffins. Home. Drawn, 5:5. This was our best performances against Tiffins so far.

Jan. 27. v. Sloane. Home. Won, 8:0. The School team had an easy victory.

Jan. 27. Junior Match v. Raynes Park. Away. Won, $4\frac{1}{2}$:$1\frac{1}{2}$. This was the first match of its kind, most of the boys playing representing the School for the first time.

Jan. 30. v. BEC. Home. Won, 7:1.

Feb. 2. v. Raynes Park. Away. Won, 8:2. A marked improvement on our game in the Autumn, which resulted in a draw.

Feb. 22. v. Sir Walter St. John's. Home. Won, $7\frac{1}{2}$:$2\frac{1}{2}$.

March 3. v. Tiffins. Away. Won $7\frac{1}{2}$:$4\frac{1}{2}$. This is the first time since the War that we have beaten Tiffins, and the team may be congratulated on putting up such a good show.

March 9. Junior Match v. Raynes Park. Home. Won, $3\frac{1}{2}$:$2\frac{1}{2}$. This match was very close indeed.

March 22. v. Old Boys. Home. Won, 5:0. The match was played in a very friendly atmosphere.

In the Spring Term the School chess team won 56 individual games against our opponents' 19. The following boys have played for the senior team: Dobrowolski, Williams, Dore, Lawrence, Lewis, Krasnodebski, Thorpe, Harrison, Nunan, Chaplin, Vila, Maclean, D., Maclean, I., and Cardwell.

Encouraged by this season's results, Dr. Solomon intends to enter our School for the London Grammar School championship next year.

Most members of the present School chess team will be leaving at the end of this year. This is why it was very pleasing to note a sudden burst of enthusiasm and competition in the fourth and fifth forms. It is hoped that boys in other parts of the School will also take an interest in our hobby.

For the first time since the War we have had advanced classes each Tuesday throughout the Summer Term.

The Spring Term's activities commenced with Dr. Solomon playing 19 boys simultaneously. The evening was very successful from Dr. Solomon's point of view, who won 13 games, drew 5 and lost only 1.

The senior and junior chess leagues which were started in the Autumn Term were won by Dobrowolski and Chaplin respectively.

In the Spring Term, Inter-House chess matches were arranged on a league basis, Cromwell and Pitt each winning two out of three matches. A replay between Cromwell and Pitt decided the issue in favour of Pitt who beat Cromwell by $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ boards.

Finally, may we here thank all people who helped us during all the season's activities, especially Dr. Solomon and Mr. Mercer, for devoting so much time and energy throughout the whole term, the School-keeper and the ladies who kindly helped us with the teas during our home matches.

J.D., R.E.W.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Captain: D. R. Horner. Vice-Captain: I. Maclean. Hon. Secretary, J. G. Morris.
Colours—Full Re-awards: Horner, Maclean, Jenkinson, Richardson. Full Awards: Morris, Johnson, Dore, Krasnodebski. Half-awards: Attoe, Dries, Line, Chafen, Clark, Totham, Scott, Harrison.

RESULTS

Sept. 24. (1st XV) v. Surbiton (H) Won 19-3. Oct. 1 (1st XV) v. Purley (A) Lost 6-14. Oct. 1st (2nd XV) v. Purley (H) Lost 0-14. Oct. 8th (1st and 2nd XV) v. Tiffin (Cancelled). Oct. 15th (1st XV) v. Whitgift Middle (A) Lost 0-27. Oct. 15th (2nd XV) v. Whitgift Middle (H) Lost 0-8. Oct. 22nd (1st XV) v. BEC (H) Won 19-3. Oct. 22nd (2nd XV) v. BEC (A) Won 20-8. Oct. 29th (1st XV) v. Brockley (A) Won 23-3. Oct. 29th (2nd XV) v. Brockley (H) Lost 3-23. Nov. 5th (1st XV) v. Surbiton (A) Draw 6-6. Nov. 5th (2nd XV) v. Surbiton (H) Lost 3-36. Nov. 12th (1st XV) v. St. Olaves (A) Won 8-0. Nov. 12th (2nd XV) v. St. Olaves (H) Won 10-8. Nov. 19th (1st XV) v. Sutton (H) Won 14-0. Nov. 26th (1st XV) v. Old Boys (H) Won 5-3. Nov. 26th (2nd XV) v. Old Boys (H) Lost 6-12. Dec. 3rd (1st XV) v. Raynes Park (H) Lost 6-11. Dec. 3rd (2nd XV) v. Raynes Park (A) Lost 3-9. Dec. 10th (1st XV) v. Selhurst (A) Lost 0-6. Jan. 14th (1st XV) v. Tiffin (A) Lost 6-3. Jan. 21st (1st XV) v. St. Olaves (H) Won 6-3. Jan. 21st (2nd XV) v. St. Olaves (A) Lost 0-3. Jan. 28th (1st and 2nd XV) v. BEC Cancelled. Feb. 8th (1st XV) v. William Ellis (A) Won 15-0 Feb. 8th (2nd XV) v. William Ellis (A) Lost 0-11. Feb. 11th (1st and 2nd XV) v. Brockley Cancelled. Feb. 15th (1st and 2nd XV) Cancelled; Feb. 18th (1st XV) v. Purley (A) Lost 0-11. Feb. 25th (1st XV) v. Selhurst (A) Drawn 0-0. Feb. 25th (2nd XV) v. Selhurst (H) Lost 3-28. 1st XV: Won 8, Lost 6, Drawn 2. 2nd XV: Won 2, Lost 9, Drawn 2.

The 1949-50 season has been the most successful one since the War. The average age of the team was much higher than usual and secondly, the School was fortunate in possessing players with previous first-team experience in the key positions.

In contrast to previous seasons, the work of the back division overshadowed that of the forwards. Unfortunately, except in a couple of matches, the forwards never played as one solid unit. There were too many individualists amongst them. In the tight scrums the forwards generally held their own, but the heeling was slow. In the loose scrums, however, many weaknesses were apparent. There was an obvious reluctance amongst the pack to bind together, to put their heads down and to get " stuck in " to the opposition, although Jenkinson and Maclean led the way well in this last respect. Again, from the loose mauls the heeling was sluggish and too often the result was that either the scrum-half or the fly-half was caught in possession.

The half-backs and three-quarters were good and developed an understanding between themselves. Line and Johnson settled down at half-back and proved effective;

Horner and Morris in the centre were steady and reliable and quick to seize their opportunities. On the wings Attoe and Dries played very well and never lacked dash for the last ten yards. The School was generally well served at full-back, although it is a position that should be developed in the attacking sense. Let the Whitgift result serve as a perpetual reminder!

This season was the last for several well-established regular players who now modestly insist that there is little prospect for next season. A little more cohesion and dash would quickly produce results, and this applies especially to the scrum. There is plenty of room for improvement in handling, dribbling, tackling and other aspects of the game. If boys were to practise these instead of kicking the ball to each other, again better results would come.

K.H.W.J., J.G.M.

COLT RUGBY

Captain: A. J. Carr. Vice-Captain and Hon. Secretary: J. D. Coppack.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Surbiton (H) 5-12. Purley (A) 0-27. Whitgift M. (H) 11-14. BEC (A) 3-14. Brockley (H) 6-5. Surbiton (A) 0-24. St. Olaves (A) 11-0. Selhurst (A) 13-3. Raynes Park (A) 15-9. St. Olaves (H) 11-3. Purley (A) 8-0. Selhurst (H) 12-9. Won 7, Lost 5.

Unfortunately, the team started the season losing five games out of six, but then hit a winning streak, not losing another match. In this period they beat Purley, thus being the first team to do so during the season. The worst game was the away match against Surbiton, when, owing to absentees, the Colts fielded only thirteen men. The game was played in a ceaseless downpour of rain.

Four of the team, Carr, Stainton, Bourton and Stear played in the Surrey trials and Carr and Stainton were chosen as reserves for the Surrey team. Bourton occasionally played for the School 1st XV. Stear, with his excellent kicking, won many games for the side. However, these boys would never have been so successful if the rest of the team hadn't backed them up so well.

The following played for the Colts during the season:—Carr, Bourton, Stear, Stainton, Coppack, Cockburn, Livingstone, Elsam, Toomer, Alvey, Miller, A., York, Nesbitt, Amer, Hardy, Bellerby, Tilley, Kennedy, Granfield, Oliver, Brooks, Ryan, Cracknell, Harvey, Burton. Evans, Sperger, Dodimead and Payne played in the under 15½ team against Purley.

J.C.

JUNIOR RUGBY

Captain: D. Cracknell. Vice-Captain: J. W. Tilley. Hon. Secretary: R. Prangnell.

Summary of Results: Played 8, Won 3, Lost 4, Drawn 1.

The Juniors had a fairly successful season, especially in view of the heavier sides they were called upon to play.

Cracknell, at stand-off, set an excellent example and was responsible for most of the tries. He was well served by Prangnell at the base of the scrum. The forwards, though often outweighed in the tight, worked well together in the loose, and Tilley, Granfield and Kennedy were outstanding. The team, as a whole, showed fine spirit and should form the nucleus of a good Colt's team next season.

Cracknell has been recommended for Junior Colours.

The following boys played for the Juniors: Gingell, Hennessey, Herbert, Wrigglesworth, Harding, Cracknell, Prangnell, Howell, Tilley, Doeser, Holder, Kennedy, Harvey, Nye, Bicknell, Winters, Granfield, Forbes, Benham, Elliott.

Horner was again chosen to represent the Surrey Schoolboys during the Christmas holidays. A notable achievement.

R.P., B.C.

WANDSWORTH SCHOOL SPEECH DAY

Mr. J. W. Bowen, C.B.E., J.P., chairman of the L.C.C., distributed the prizes.

In welcoming the parents, the chairman, Lt.-Col. G. L. Matthews, O.B.E., T.D., said that it had proved impracticable to hold a combined speech day for both branches of Wandsworth School (the Grammar and Technical branches) since no hall in the district was sufficiently large. He introduced Mr. Bowen as one of his own colleagues on the Board of Governors.

After presenting the prizes Mr. Bowen paid tribute to the School.

"Personally I like the definition given in the Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in December, 1948: 'Education shall be directed to the full development of human personality.' The Headmaster has lent strength to that declaration in his remarks, saying that it was his object to prepare youth for the future in character and ability. I suggest that to this demand Wandsworth School makes a magnificent response."

Social Activities

The first prefect, D. R. Horner, gave a report on the social activities of the School. This was followed by a report given by the second prefect, I. Maclean, on the part played by sport in the School.

The programme included excellent performances by the School Orchestra, the School Choir and the Speech Choir.

Headmaster's Report

In his report, the Headmaster said:

The School is now larger than ever before, with 520 boys, its official capacity being 505. The rapid growth of numbers since the School returned from evacuation in 1945 has not yet made itself felt at the top of the School.

Boys profited immensely from a year or, better, two years in the sixth form, not only intellectually but in personality and poise, he said. The life of the School as a whole also reached a higher cultural and social level under the influence of more mature and influential leaders.

During the last five years School Certificate entries had increased in proportion from 17 to 50. Considerably more boys passed the Higher Matriculation level than at the ordinary School Certificate level.

In the Higher School Certificate the school maintained 100 per cent. passes as in recent previous years.

Recruitment of teachers of high calibre was a great present difficulty for all grammar schools, which had to compete for them with industry and Government service on most unfavourable terms.

It was the staff that made the school. Not only intellectual distinction, but culture and personality were essential qualities. Above all a willingness to give service, outside the bond, to promote the life of the school as a social community.

A school was primarily a sphere of human relations, and the quality of those relations gave the measure of its true worth. At Wandsworth the staff had, during the last 18 years, made a real success of the tutorial system under which the School was socially organised in permanent "families," each under the tutelage of a master.

The School should not foster too exclusive an allegiance to its " little world," especially as the pupils matured. Education should be linked with life, and the school with the community. The " Week in Industry," spent in each of the last two years by boys of the fifth and sixth forms illustrated one way in which Wandsworth School was carrying out this principle of training for citizenship.

The staff had given much thought to the subject of education for international understanding, and afforded considerable material from their experience to the investigation of that field now being carried out by the United Kingdom National Commission for Unesco.

Form Prizes

I.—*Swallow, Charles J.; Sawyer, Alan J.; Richards, David A.; Bicknall, Lawrence, E. J.; Cook, Montague B. H.; Savage, Anthony C.; Dean, Ronald S.; Dodge, Graham B.; Unger, James, F.; Tonks, Geoffrey E.

II.—*Griffiths, Roger W.; Gilbart, John F.; King, Donald T.; Bullen, Raymond; Morgan, Michael, F.; Bryant, Derek W.; Tringham, John H.; Hardy, Colin G.; Prangnell, Richard; Brett, Gerald.

III.—*Bloss, John W.; *Gosden, Christopher B.; Nesbitt, John A.; *Scott, John J. W.; Brookes, John M.; Wright, Thomas R.; Cardwell, Robert D.; Phelps, Maurice A.; Elsam, Raymond J.; Hughes, David J.

IV.—*Bejnarowicz, Zigmunt; Gritt, Peter F.; Nelson, James A.; *Stanley, William M.; Richardson, Kenneth; Carr, Alan J.; Harrington, Rex W.; Totham, John A.; Clark, Donald M.; Morrison, David R.

V.—Roberts, Nelson F.; Light, Brian G.; Richardson, Donald; Attoe, Raymond C. A.; Morris, John G.; Stacey, David V.; Harper, David; Purkiss, Thomas C.; Grazynski, Michael; Airey, John P.

*Special merit.

Special Prizes

V.—Morris, John G., Latin, French; Harper, David, English, French, history; Attoe, Raymond C. A., English, history; Maystone, Brian, geography; Light, Brian G., French, art; Roberts, Nelson F., French, art; Mallows, Albert J., English, French, Latin; Cooke, James H. E., French; Maclean, Donald G., mathematics, mechanics.

VI.—Grieves, Jefferson C., Higher School Certificate and French; Horner, David R., Higher School Certificate, English and history; Haydon, John S., Higher School Certificate and German; Maclean, Ian, Higher School Certificate and social studies; Scott, Peter H., Higher School Certificate; Fenton, David G., mathematics and science; Johnson, Kenneth H. W., general progress; Lightman, William, Latin.

Chairman's prize: Haydon, John S. (head boy 1948-9).

Wandsworth Lodge service prizes: 1st: Maclean, I.; 2nd, Johnson, Kenneth H. W.

Trophies

" Couch " Work Shield: Pitt House; " Mayfield " Cup (Eisteddfod): Cromwell House; " Parents' Council " Shield (cricket); Gibbon House; " Waite " Shield (swimming): Pitt House; " Miller " Shield (rugby): Pitt House; " Old Wandsworthians' " Shield (boxing): Cromwell House; " Coronation " Shield (cross-country): Pitt House; " Marcus Samuel " Shield (athletics): Cromwell House; sports championship trophy: Pitt House.

A.M.L.

FENCING

The Fencing Club on March 14th, held its first Fencing Gala. Pupils and guests of the School saw not only the final bouts of the First School Fencing Championship, but a display of fencing by members of Britain's Olympic team and others scarcely less eminent, conducted and explained in person by Mr. Charles de Beaumont, the Honorary Secretary of the Amateur Fencing Association, whose distinguished record includes the captaincy of Britain's Olympic teams in 1936 and 1948.

He introduced us first of all to the history—and mystery—of the three modern swords, the foil, épée and sabre, showing us how their evolution has been influenced by changes in costume no less than by changes in methods of warfare. We learned that fencing was the first sport to be properly organised in Britain, fencing masters being formed into a guild by Henry VIII.

Then Mr. de Beaumont called on Mrs. Allwork and Mrs. Copping, both finalists in national foil competitions, to demonstrate the foil, the basic training and practice sword, while he explained the system of scoring. The audience now became fascinated by the swift, controlled thrust and parry of the swords and the graceful attitudes and movements of the fencers. Charles de Beaumont then put on his mask to demonstrate the épée with Mr. A. E. Pelling, twice Amateur Epée Champion of Great Britain, and the hall rang for the first time with the traditional cries of the fencing room, "He! La!"—"Touché!"—"A moi!" No audience, however ignorant of the technique of the sport, could resist such obvious mastery; we applauded Mr. de Beaumont and Mr. Pelling, and watched eagerly as Mr. René Paul, foil in hand, faced his brother, Mr. Raymond Paul. To the grace and speed of the ladies with the foil, the brothers Paul added masculine strength and verve. The first part of the gala concluded with a demonstration of the sabre by Mr. de Beaumont and Mr. E. R. Watts, who has won important championships at all three weapons.

While the visitors rested, the final pool of the School's first foil competition was fought off. M. R. Mattey, A. J. Kaminski, C. B. Gosden, N. F. Roberts, M. Grazinski and J. C. Grieves had qualified for this. Under the presidency first of Mr. Levy and then of Mr. de Beaumont, and providing their own judges, they fought keenly for the privilege of first place. The decision rested on the last bout between Grieves and Grazynski, both of whom until then had remained undefeated. The bout went to three-all in a series of spirited exchanges. Then Grazynski's crash tactics gained him the final point. He and his fellow competitors could well be pleased when, later on, they were congratulated by Mr. de Beaumont on the correctness of their fencing.

In the second part of the gala we saw matches in all the weapons. Mrs. Copping and Mrs. Allwork fought at foil; Mr. Levy held his own against Mr. Pelling, to demonstrate not only the épée but also the electrical scoring apparatus which has been developed for this weapon; and, finally, Mr. Watts and Mr. de Beaumont delighted us with the sabre.

The School is much indebted to the famous fencers who had made its first fencing gala such a success. Mr. Levy is to be congratulated on having brought the School's fencers up to such a creditable standard and on the organisation of this delightful event.

T.G.B.

FENCING NOTES

We were unfortunate this term to lose our captain, J. C. Grieves, to the R.A.F., and I am sure that everyone joins me in wishing him every success in the great big world outside. To fill his place, an election was held, by which N. F. Roberts became captain and A. Grazynski, secretary.

Later this term we are having our first fixture. Mr. Levy is bringing down a team from the Regent Street Polytechnic who we hope will not be too hard on us.

To end, I would say that the club, although prospering, must have regular attendance if it is to become, as we hope, the most important in the School.

N.F.R., A.G.

CROSS COUNTRY

Captain: I. Maclean. Vice-Captain: D. R. Morrison. Hon. Secretary: D. G. Maclean.

As last season we were rarely able to field a truly representative team. Rugby claimed three of our best six runners, and others just wouldn't trouble. We have, however, an extremely good and enthusiastic fourth form, which bodes well for the future. Had the Inter-House C.C. been run on an Inter-Form basis, the fourth form would have proved comfortable winners. It is to be hoped that, next year, more potentially good runners will exert themselves in an effort to restore us to the prominent position we held in the first season after the War.

Results

Oct. 15th. School v. Ranelagh Harriers. Lost 25-63. Maclean, D., was third and Mortimer eighth.

Oct. 31st. Junior Match. School v. Technical Branch. The School won quite easily by 12 pts. to 32. Oulds ran well to be first, as did Patterson to finish second.

Nov. 5th. School v. Belgrave Harriers. Lost 24-12. Maclean, D., was third and Grieves seventh.

Dec. 10th. Highgate Harriers Inter-Schools' C.C. The School finished 21st out of 29 teams. The Technical Branch ran as our " B " team and were 20th. Maclean, D., was first.

Jan. 21st. Cambridge Harriers Inter-Schools' C.C. We were very unlucky to miss a place in this race. Maclean, I., and Phelps lost good positions through running off the course. Maclean, D., was second and Firth (Tech. Branch) was fourth.

Feb. 1st. School v. Raynes Park C.S. Lost 56-28. Maclean, D., was first and D'Archambaud seventh.

Feb. 11th. School v. John Fisher School v. Belgrave Harriers. Belgrave were comfortable winners with 16 pts. The School beat John Fisher for second place by 31 pts.-42. Maclean, D., was first.

Feb. 18th. Ranelagh Harriers Inter-Schools C.C. The School team ran well to be 11th in such a strong field. Maclean, D., was 13th and Grieves 60th. Firth (Tech. Branch) ran for the School and did well to be 7th.

Mar. 4th. " Judge " Cup Races: 7th out of 8 teams. The School was 5th in the Junior and 6th in the Senior Race. Hopkins (Tech. Branch) was 15th in the Junior Race. Maclean, D., was first in the Senior Race.

Mar. 18th. South London Harriers Inter-Schools' C.C. We finished 13th out of 25 competing schools. Maclean, D., was 8th and Gibson (Tech. Branch) was 48th.

Mar. 29th. Inter-House C.C. Gibbon surprised by winning both Senior and Junior races quite easily. Maclean, D., was 1st, Oulds was 2nd, and Phelps was 3rd. In the Junior race the first three were Pettican, Patterson and Elliott, in that order.

D.G.M.

FIVES

Fives was first played in the public schools in this country. Although these schools developed their own rules, the rules played to now are mainly those of Rugby and Eton. The first courts were any available stretches of wall, those at Eton being the wall of the chapel. The game played here is Rugby Fives, played in a four-walled court, by two or four players wearing gloves and using a small ball of approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. in diameter. The game is very fast and needs much practice.

On Wednesday, May 31st, the fives team played its first match since pre-war days. The match was against Henry Thornton's on their courts. The team consisted of Bartlett, Francis, Vila and Totham. We lost all four games before tea, but did better afterwards, losing three games by very narrow margins and winning one.

The home tie of the first round of the Marchant Cup with Henry Thornton's was played on Monday, June 5th. The team was Bartlett and Francis; Totham and Vila. A marked improvement was shown by both pairs. In the first games Bartlett and Francis, our first pair, lost to their first pair, and Vila and Totham, our second pair, lost very narrowly to their second pair. Then our first pair beat their second pair quite convincingly, and our second pair lost fairly narrowly to their first pair.

As the number of fives players is increasing daily and the quality of fives played is improving very quickly, the future of fives here can be looked on with the greatest confidence.

R. BARTLETT

BOXING

The Inter-House competition this year was run on the basis of House teams, rather than individual entries as in previous years. This restricted the number of entries without diminishing the enthusiasm of contestants and spectators.

The finals were held at School in March. The results were:—

Junior

Under 5.2 W. Argent (C) beat M. Carney (P).
„ 5.8 J. Brodie (G) beat V. Griffiths (P).
„ 6.8 J. Barrett (C) beat J. Phillips (M).
„ 7.0 E. Yaxley (M) beat G. Newey (P).
„ 8.12 P. Ryan W.O.

Intermediate

Under 6.8 M. Bray (P) beat M. Ellis (G).
„ 7.2 B. H. Hayden (M) beat J. Edgar (C).
„ 7.10 J. Friday (G) beat D. Nye (P).
„ 8.4 R. Oulds (C) beat M. Mattey (M).
„ 8.12 A. Carr (M) beat J. Coppack (C).
„ 9.6 J. Quested (G) beat J. Hudson (C).
„ 10 stone D. Cracknell (P) W.O.

Senior

Under 7.10 J. A. Nelson (M) W.O.
„ 8.4 J. Whitfield W.O.
„ 8.12 J. Gibbons (M) beat A. Dunn (C).
„ 9.6 B. Dodimead (C) beat S. Harrison (G).
„ 10 stone P. Whitfield (C) beat K. Norman (G).
„ 11 stone J. Francis W.O.
Over 11 stone Totham (M) beat Maclean (C).

	(C)	(M)	(G)	(P)
Score:	62	54	38	26

Col. Matthews presented the Boxing Trophy to Cromwell's Boxing Captain, P. J. Whitfield.

In Inter-School matches our Juniors and Intermediates have been quite successful, but the Seniors were most disappointing. Amongst the Juniors, Burr, Carney and Carr were very promising. Herbert and Griffiths continued to box well and show great keenness.

Results: v. William Ellis, Won; v. Hampton, Lost; v. Tiffin, Lost; v. Sir Walter St. John, Won; v. Building Branch, Won.

The Schools' Championship.—Sixteen boys from the School entered for this year's championships. J. Friday, V. Munton and P. J. Whitfield won Wandsworth Championships. In the Western Division Finals: J. Friday was narrowly defeated by A. Nelson (Battersea) who went on to win a School's Championship.

P. J. Whitfield boxed extremely well when he was defeated in a close bout with P. M. Gillham (Sutton) at the National Championships at the Albert Hall.

We congratulate P. J. Whitfield not only on his success in the National Championships, but also on the very able way he has carried out his duties of Vice-Captain in the absence of the Boxing Captain. It is a great pity that A. Carr was prevented from entering the National Championship because of appendix trouble.

We should like to thank all members of the staff, parents and friends who have helped in this season's boxing, and may we remind parents that their support is always welcomed at our boxing matches, at home or away.

S.R.

THE MAN WHO ENJOYED ILL HEALTH

For the annual Christmas play the School Players gave a translation of Molière's, "Le Malade Imaginaire," a comedy directed against doctors, and calling to mind rightly or wrongly "The Doctor's Dilemma," by Shaw.

This difficult play presents a number of pitfalls, especially for boys. The characters are, or at any rate tend, to become puppets used for the declamation of arguments and attacks on the medical profession in the late seventeenth century. This may not be so obvious in the original French, but it certainly is in England where we take our doctors less seriously, perhaps. There is a tendency in the lively actor, and these actors were lively enough, to run the risk of guying a part to make it palatable or comprehensible. The women's parts are especially difficult in this respect if we except Toinette, the maid.

J. C. Grieves, as Argan, made the very most of the part. He held the stage alone with very little to do except express the peevishness and childish self-pity of the crotchety patient, with words and small gestures. He has obviously improved upon those already marked acting abilities so often demonstrated before. R. Arnold, as the leading lady, his daughter Angelica, coped extremely well with a rather thin part. Her make-up was excellent, she walked, sat and stood well and her love-making, especially in the recitation scene, was expressive. The best woman's part, that of Toinette, Argan's maid, is a busy, bustling, complicated one, played extremely well on the whole by D. W. Gale, though a little spoilt by a tendency to fidget on the few occasions Molière permits her to be still. D. W. Gale is to be congratulated on winning the Semmens Prize for progress in amateur dramatics during the past year.

B. F. Tyson, as Diafoirus, the archtype of the pompous venal and ignorant physician, was excellent, a part felt and studied to the last curl of the little finger and played without guying. He was well supported by D. G. Maclean, as his son Thomas,

whose make-up was excellent and who made a good job of his difficult speeches, but tended to overdo the acting of his part at times. I would like to compliment J. C. Hodgson as Beraldo, Argan's brother, who has to spend most of his time sitting down in mid-stage arguing Molière's case. There is little he can do except cross his legs and stroke his clothes, yet his interest in his words was sufficiently great to keep his audience attentive and amused. A very difficult part very well done. He seems to have forgotten nothing of some tricky speeches.

Among the secondary parts, B. G. Light taking Bonnefoy, the lawyer, and later Purgon, the physician, managed to be convincingly soapy, self-confident, hectoring and pompous without apparent strain. B. A. Liggitt, as the apothecary Mr. Fleurant, coped effectively with that traditional stumbling-block for boy actors, the old man. G. E. Contreras, as Belina, Argan's second wife, and N. F. Roberts, as Cleanthes, Angelica's lover, both acted with spirit and seemed to take as much pleasure as they gave in their parts.

The performance was most impressive and exciting when comedy verged on burlesque, as in the shouting duo between Argan and Diafoirus at their first meeting and the exquisite scene between M. F. Bunker as Louison and her father Argan. The part of Louison was pleasantly discharged on Friday by C. J. Winter. The farcical installation of Argan as a doctor, to which Molière contributed the dog-latin and Mr. Benyon (who with Mr. Bacchus was responsible for producing the play) contributed the medical experience of the last two hundred years, was witty and high-spirited.

These actors gave us a brilliant, witty, high speed comedy with a true sense of the lightness of touch its artificiality requiries. The breaks were short and well managed, the costumes excellent and excellently carried by the wearers who seemed to have lived in them rather than to have clambered into them for two nights. The stage hands made no noise and we should be as grateful to them for this important omission as to the people responsible for the excellent choice of records and especially that incidental to the installation of Argan, and of the secular and heavily light-hearted Handel. All this contributed to a unique evening of satisfying entertainment.

The play was produced by Mr. E. E. Bacchus and Mr. T. G. Benyon. Business manager: Mr. A. P. Culverwell; make-up: Mr. S. Cowan; stage manager: Mr. W. H. George; music: Mr. J. Keyte; programme cover: B. G. Light; stage manager's team: I. L. Broughton, R. Harrington, J. F. Reed, D. Richardson and D. V. Stacey.

A.H

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Association year, if not an outstanding one, started and finished on a most satisfactory and encouraging note, with the annual cricket match against the School on July 9th, 1949, when we scored a victory over the Boys by 55 runs, for the first time in our history, and finished with the largest annual general meeting we have had so far.

After the cricket match we played our part in the annual fete on July 16th, and in spite of bad weather, I am glad to say that about £66 was passed to the Memorial Fund. The Fund now stands at about £1,250, considerably short of the £2,000 which is the initial goal.

The Autumn term informal social evening to welcome our new parents, which has become quite a feature of our programmes, was again very successful and we were able to interest many new members in the Association. The excellent programme provided by the staff and the boys, again under the direction of Mr. Lincé, and the display of fencing by a team of boys, directed by Mr. Levy, was again appreciated.

We hope to continue with these informal types of social evenings in the future, as it is evident by the lack of support for the usual dances and whist drives that these informal gatherings are preferred.

The Association was represented on November 11th at the solemn ceremony of unveiling and dedication of the plaque in the hall to the memory of those boys who fell in the war.

Our whist drives and dances in November, January and March, I regret to say, were not successful. There was a marked falling-off in support, especially at the whist drives, which leads us to think that this usual social evening is losing its appeal.

The Annual General Meeting, which finished our year, was most successful. A large audience came along, and after the Tutorial-at-Home proceeded with the business portion of the evening.

The Secretary gave his report of the year's activities, with thanks to the President, Mr. King, and all who had contributed to the work of the Association.

The Treasurer again produced an excellent balance sheet and stated that during the year we had contributed to the expenses of the Fencing Club, provided funds for the renovation of the sports shields, cups and sporting trophies, purchased athletic clothing, subscribed to the funds of The Link and finally provided cups and saucers for use at the boys' games teas and our social events. Members can judge by the foregoing that their funds have been used for the benefit of the boys as a whole.

The election of Mr. King as President was unanimously adopted, and I am pleased to report that five new members will be joining us on the Parents' Council to take the places of those members who have resigned.

The Council will shortly be planning the programme for the coming term, but we invite all members to send us suggestions of the type of meetings or evenings they would like. All events are regularly listed in the terminal letter sent out with the boy's report at end of term and you are also notified via the boys of all events as they come along. Will all parents please take note of and reserve these dates?

It is vitally essential for the future well being of our Association that we should all make an effort to keep Wandsworth School Parents' Association a live and active body of parental opinion, and maintain it in its proud position of one of the pioneers of parent-teacher movements in this district. I feel confident that I do not make that appeal in vain.

H. J. SCOTT

OLD WANDSWORTHIANS

There are two good reasons for satisfaction among Old Boys over the progress made during the last six months.

Firstly a 20% increase in membership is gratefully recorded, and secondly the Rugger Section maintained three fifteens during the whole season, the "B" team playing 20 matches, the highest figure ever attained.

The rugger results on paper are disappointing, but they do not tell the whole story. We suffered some atrocious luck and our casualty list at one time reached alarming proportions. When the figures are broken down it can be seen, for example, that the 1st XV lost 11 games by a margin of 6 points or less, and of these games no less than eight were lost by 3 or less points. Surely proof that they played a lot better than the bare results indicate. The season's figures were:—

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	Pts. for	Agst.
1st XV ...	26	6	19	1	160	202
"A" XV. ...	27	11	11	5	225	235
"B" XV ...	20	4	16	0	111	229

A list of casualties, by no means complete, makes interesting reading. Spencer Shapcott missed the whole season with a troublesome knee injury and spent several months in hospital and convalescing. R. Duncan and R. Dorsett broke collar bones, G. Foxwell and Hammond fractured wrists and at one time or another Wood, Finch, R., Forrester, Ealey and several others were unable to turn out. Rarely, if ever, could we field teams at full strength. Misfortune on this scale can only come once, and next season will present another picture. At least there were no signs of despondency at the rugger supper held at the "White Hart" in April. It made a wonderful ending to a most interesting season.

The winter dances at Stanley's Restaurant and the School were not so well attended as had been hoped, and after the summer holidays we are shifting to a new venue at the "King's Arms," Fulham, where we hope to be more successful.

The club nights on Wednesdays maintained their attendance figures and popularity, but we can still do with many more people using the facilities. W. Forrester was the winner of the Frank Hurst Table Tennis Cup, and P. Bull was victorious in the competition for the Norman Darts Cup.

All boys leaving School at the end of term are reminded that the Old Boys extend to them a warm welcome, and they are asked to contact the Secretary, Mr. S. Fairey, 5, Hillcrest Avenue, Edgware. Telephone: Edgware 4803.

D. GRANT

VERSE

LENDING A HAND

The Government's brochures read, quite thrilling:
There's fun for every chap that's willing
To lend a hand on the farming land,
And get that pallid complexion tanned;
Fresh air and clean lodgings, rich food of the best
(But, somewhat disturbing, no mention of rest).
Companions good, cheap travel by rail,
Application forms wanted by the next mail.
Come down to the farm. You're the chap that's just made for it,
And furthermore, laddie, you'll even get paid for it.

The chickens stop scratching, cows look up aghast,
As a motley collection of people file past.
The new band of helpers turn in at the gate
Where Farmer Giles, trembling awaiting his fate,
Arms them with implements, and gives them their orders,
And hurries them off to the furthermost borders,
His good wife, convinced now that ruin is certain,
Mutters her thoughts from the edge of a curtain:
"This Government's hopeless. They ought to be flayed for it.
What people they send us, and have to be paid for it!"

The helpers discard their smart Harris tweeds,
And start a frontal attack on the weeds,
A shining steel blade cuts the air with a whistle.
"I'm sorry, my dear, that was meant for a thistle."
("I hope you will pardon me, dear Mr. Smythe,
"But exercise caution when swinging that scythe.")
So stabbing and slashing. They work up the rows,
Bruising their ankles and skinning their toes,
Thinking of tea-time, and the oak tables laid for it,
Contented and happy, and getting well paid for it!

But when they return, with sun-blistered nose,
Cut hands and fingers, and sore feet and toes,
With stiffening neck, a back that is breaking,
Joints that are creaking, and limbs that are aching,
Purchasing liniments, ointments and lotions,
Health salts and powders, and insect-bite potions,
Their dreams of prosperity suddenly stop,
As counting their change at "Ye Olde Chemist Shoppe,"
Sadly reflecting, and somewhat dismayed, for it
They realise at last who jolly-well paid for it.

B. CLAPTON, VB.

GRUMBLES

When summer comes, then come the flies
Then comes the heat, and mother sighs,
And mother sighs, "Oh dear, Oh dear!
I wish the autumn cool was here!"

When autumn comes it's moist and grey,
And falling leaves bestrew the way;
And every schoolboy growls, "Oh blow!
I do so wish that it would snow!"

When winter comes it brings the snow,
And baby says (when warm winds blow
And crystal snow all turns to slush),
"When will the birdies stop their hush?"

At last the birds begin to sing,
And they new grumbles with them bring,
For father cries, "I wish, me dear,
That summer holidays were here!"

M. J. A. DOUEL, IIA.

PUTNEY

Putney Bridge, the gateway to Putney from London, has not always been the substantial stone structure that it is now. In 1886 the old and picturesque wooden bridge was replaced. The present bridge was widened, however, just before World War II.

Adjoining the bridge stands the 16th century church of St. Mary's, of which only the tower is original, although even this has been much restored. Further up the High Street the forge still does business. This is only one of the many reminders we get of the days when Putney was a village.

Had we, however, turned right at Putney Bridge, along what was formerly called Windsor Street, we should have come to Barn Elms Park belonging to the Ranelagh Club and famed for its inter-regimental polo matches. The former mansion was called Barn Elms. Here lived Walsingham, Queen Elizabeth's Secretary of State. Elizabeth was a frequent visitor, as were Pepys, Cowley, Handel and many other famous men.

Continuing up Putney Hill, past the well-kept large houses, we come to the "Green Man." At the top of the hill is also the old pound for cattle and sheep found straying on the Heath.

It was here on the Heath that the highwaymen robbed coaches going along the Portsmouth Road. One such fellow, Jerry Avershawe, flourished awhile here, but the gibbet caught up with him before his twenty-second year was out. The Heath was not only plagued by the "gentlemanly" highwaymen; there was also the footpad who looked after the small-fry, namely, pedestrians. These footpads were not only cowards but were also exceptionally mean. As a rule they would attack only drunken men and and children.

Upon the Heath there still stands "Bowling Green House," where William Pitt died, and, close by, the "Telegraph" Inn, so called because of the signalling tower that used to stand there. And it was here that anxious politicians used to wait (and no doubt quench their thirsts) for signals by visual code, from Portsmouth.

M. MORGAN, IIIA.

NOVEMBER

The month of November,
A month to remember.
The bustle and scurry
Of people that hurry.
Presents for Christmas,
Can't catch the last bus.
The rain and the drizzle,
The fireworks that sizzle.
Use of wellington boots,
The planting of roots,
The coughs and the sneezes,
The spreading diseases.
And all this precedes
(As the old year recedes)
The New Year!

T. W. PAVITT, IIIC.

THE WANDSWORTHIANS LODGE

Much progress has been made since the last report appeared in "The Link." In all, six new members have been admitted, whose years at School vary from 1906—08 to 1938—44. Other applications are being considered. The election of the Master for 1950—51 will take place at the July meeting and he will be installed on Friday, 6th October. The Lodge meets at Ardington Rooms on the first Friday of February, May, July, October and December. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary of the Wandsworthians Lodge, 209 Raeburn Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey.