THE PYRAMID

THE MAGAZINE OF WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

(BUILDING BRANCH)

Summer, 1952 No. 3

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MR. MAKIN'S NOTES

The September term began with an influx of 130 new boys, making the school total 352, the largest ever in the history of the school. It also rather taxed the accommodation of the building! However, they were all squeezed in and the new boys have by now settled down and are making a considerable contribution to the life of the School.

Everyone was cheered last term when news filtered through that the School buildings were going to be repainted this summer, both inside and out. The work is now in hand, the Carpenters and Plumbers Shops being nearly finished already. There is no doubt about its being a great improvement.

Speech Day again ran concurrently with the Annual Exhibition and Col. C. M. Croft, D.L., J.P., presented the trophies and prizes. The Exhibition of Work and social activities was as good as ever, and well attended, in spite of the inclement weather. Mr. Chambers' floodlights on the new brickshop brightened up the scene in the west playground.

I should like to thank Lt. Col. G. L. Mathews, O.B.E., T.D., the Chairman of the Governors, for offering to present a Cross-Country trophy to the School; and the Parents' Association for a Diligence trophy. Mr. Sexton is preparing the designs for these and I have little doubt that they will be as attractive as the Whitlock Swimming Shield, which he also designed.

The School Camp at Christchurch, Hants, was a great success and is being repeated this year during Whitsun week, this time with Mr. Chambers in charge.

The A.T.C. camp at Leconsfield, Yorkshire, during the Easter vacation, was both instructive and enjoyable; and everyone returned looking the better for the experience.

The trip to Switzerland during the summer vacation was honoured by the presence of Mr. Chalk, the President of the Parents' Association, and Mrs. Chalk, and a good, and at times exciting, time was had by all. On one occasion, they were caught in a blizzard at about 7,000 ft. and had to take shelter in an occupied shippen; and, on another, experienced motoring over The Furka Pass at midnight in thick fog, owing to the motor coach breaking down at the Rhone Glacier.

There has been one change in the Staff since the last issue of the magazine. In December, we said goodbye to Mr. W. Jeal and in January, welcomed Mr. R. W. Knibbs in his place. The latter is already showing great promise, and I am sure will prove a worthy successor to Mr. Jeal, a tribute to whose work and loyalty will be found later in this issue.

I should like to congratulate Roy Grout on not only winning the 9½ st. Inter-London Championship for Boxing but on being awarded the Style Prize too. I must also share the sympathy of the School on his being unable to compete in the Great Britain Championships. Had he been able to do so, I am quite sure he would have given a good account of himself.

I should also like to congratulate A. Murley, Form 3C, on rescuing a demented cat from a lofty chimney pot and thereby earning for himself a prize from the R.S.P.C.A. This led to my inviting Inspector Keech of the R.S.P.C.A. to address the boys in Forms 3 and 4 on "The Care of Pets" on the 12th February, and he gave a very interesting talk not only on dogs and cats but on all kinds of animals.

I must also congratulate D. Krailing, of Form 5TH on winning the School handwriting competition. A panel of competent judges had no hesitation in singling his out as the best effort. It was very difficult to find a second best as the next five or six were of equal merit. What the test did show however, was that every boy in the School can write legibly if only he will take the trouble to do so!

I should like to congratulate Gainsborough on being top in Diligence; not only on being top but on leading by a comfortable margin.

The Swimming, Football, Cross-Country and Boxing Inter-House Championships have been as keenly contested as ever and accounts of these appear elsewhere in this issue. With regard to social activities, my own impression is that these, on the whole, have not been as well attended as last year, unless leaving school promptly at four o'clock to attend to a paper round or take the dog out for a walk can be regarded as social activities.

The Christmas concert was as popular as ever, one of this year's highlights being the provision of ice cream, during the interval, by the Parents' Association. I must not forget the hard work put in by Mr. Chambers and other members of the Staff and I should like to thank them for, and congratulate them on, a successful and entertaining show, particularly the parody on the Midsummer Night's Dream. May their fairies never grow less!

The Junior Cross-Country team has done well, winning the South London Schools race at Greenwich and the Judge Cup race at Richmond Park. So have the A.T.C. Cross-Country teams in winning the County of London Championships, both Senior and Junior, at Wimbledon on the 24th February.

This year we have been able to have the use of the Technical Schools playing field at Raynes Park every Wednesday and the Seniors have had the benefit of it. The South-Eastern Gas Board

were again good enough to lend us their field and pavilion on the occasion of the Inter-House Soccer finals. Whilst on the subject of football, I must mention the instruction given to our teams by Mr. Alec White, of the Football Association. He coached our boys for four weeks and was rewarded with a wonderful response.

I must also mention the visit of Rolf Svanberg, the Swedish Olympic Athletics coach, who gave his services free for two weeks and stimulated a great interest in field events. We hope they will visit us again next year.

Last, but by no means least, a word about our Parents' Association, a more complete account of which appears later in this issue. The association is going from strength to strength and has held meetings, dances, whist and beetle drives regularly every term—not forgetting the Jumble Sale, held last November, which realized over £40! To date, every function has been a financial success, although the primary object has been to encourage parents to attend and not to make money. No more has been charged than considered necessary to cover the costs but comfortable profits have, nevertheless, been realised.

The Entertainments Sub-committee in charge of Mr. Gooding (Chairman) and Mrs. K. Brown (Secretary) have met, and continue to meet, very frequently and are largely responsible for the organisation and smooth working of the various functions. Mr. E. C. Chalk, the President, is the mainspring of the Parents' Council, all of whom have the welfare of the Association and the School very much at heart and have worked so hard in putting the former soundly on its feet, making itself of use to the latter in many ways, and stimulating parental interest in both.

MR. JEAL

Mr. Jeal had served the School for almost nine years when he left us last January to take a lectureship at the Brixton School of Building. Mr. Jeal came to the School a few months after its formation when it was temporarily domiciled at Clapham College, whilst the Xavierians were evacuated. He had therefore seen the School develop throughout all the stages of its growth, from the early Brixton days to the ultimate amalgamation as the Technical Branch of Wandsworth School. Mr. Jeal helped pilot its course during the troublesome times of "the housing shortage," when the School changed its abode from The Technical Institute to Merton Road, and finally to Garratt Lane.

Mr. Jeal was Geography Master at the Technical Branch. He was an enthusiast. He shouldered the work manfully and whether it was A.T.C., School Journeys, Cricket or Films his cheerful willingness to give of his time, came to be taken for granted. He deserved promotion and we wish him every success in his new appointment. *"Cogitare est augere."*

SPEECH DAY AND EXHIBITION OF WORK

This was held on Thursday, the 6th March, and Col. C. M. Croft presented the prizes, certificates and sports trophies for the past educational year. Lt. Col. G. L. Matthews, O.B.E., T.D., Chairman of the Governors, presided.

The Head Prefect being away from school through illness, the Third Prefect, Roy Grout, took his place and spoke on the various athletic activities. He was followed by the Second Prefect, E. Chalk, who reported on the various social activities, including visits to foreign countries, the Festival of Britain and to various Works and Factories connected with the building trade.

Mr. H. R. King spoke of the gradual fusion of the Technical Branch and the Grammar School which was undoubtedly taking place in spite of the two buildings being separated by a rather uncomfortable distance. Each half of the educational set-up was beginning to appreciate the work and difficulties of the other half and the wider education which was being given in the form of social and athletic activities.

Mr. J. Makin prefaced his report by referring to Grout's modesty in omitting all reference to himself and his prowess in boxing and then went on to report on the work of the School. He paid a tribute to Mr. Jeal, who left last term to take up a post at the School of Building at Brixton, and welcomed in his place, Mr. Knibbs. Mr. Makin said he had every reason to believe that the instruction given by the staff and the work done by the boys was as good if not better than ever: the examination results had been very satisfactory; the staff gave freely of their time and energies in sports and social activities and the boys on the whole had responded well. He spoke about Old Boys' successes and said that although the School had only been in existence nine years, there was no doubt that it was becoming known in the building trade, especially in London.

Mr. Makin also discussed homework, attendance at evening school and premature leaving, and pointed out the undoubted value of keeping every boy at school until he had completed the full three years course. Too many parents were inclined to take away their boys from school as soon as they had reached the statutory school leaving age of fifteen, irrespective of the boys' abilities or future.

He also spoke about the visit to the South Bank Exhibition and the camps, visits and tours which had taken place during the past year.

He also outlined the work of the Parents' Association: the Jumble Sale, dances and whist drives, the annual cricket match and the ways in which it was helping the School both officially and otherwise.

He cordially invited the crowded hall of parents and friends to attend the Exhibition of the work of the School which was on view in the classrooms, studios and workshops until 9 o'clock that evening.

He concluded his speech with a tribute to the staff for their hard work and loyal co-operation both in and out of School hours.

Col. Croft then presented the House Trophies, Prizes and Certificates and, in his address, congratulated the winners. He also encouraged those who had not received prizes that day to try harder next time and it might be that their efforts would be rewarded with success. He told the boys that their future was in their hands and advised them to spend as much time at their trades as possible, making the most of their opportunities at school and doing their best in the sphere of life in which they found themselves both in school and afterwards when they had left. He asked them to be straight with each other and never to lose their tempers, because it was impossible to reason calmly when angry and years of experience might be spoilt by a senseless little spasm which might easily have been avoided. He congratulated the large gathering of parents and he was quite sure they would be pleased to see the work the boys were doing.

Votes of thanks were accorded to Col. Croft, by Mrs. Marshall Brown and Mr. Puddifoot, the new Divisional Officer, respectively, and votes of thanks to the Chairman by the Rev. K. W. Howell, the Vicar of Wandsworth and Mr. E. Chalk, President of the Parents' Association.

House Trophies

Diligence: Gainsborough. Athletic cup: Wren. Boxing: Wren. Cricket ("Chalk" cup): Smeaton. Cross-country: Scott (senior), Scott (junior). Football cup: Wren (senior), Scott (junior). Swimming ("Whitlock" shield): Wren.

PRIZE LIST

School Captain's prize (presented by the Chairman of the Governors): Brian L. Starey.

Vice-captain's Prize (presented by the School): Michael McGowan.

Prizes and Certificates for Public Examinations

Prizes—College of Preceptors: B. L. Starey, J. D. White, E. C. Chalk. Oxford Certificate of Education: B. L. Starey, John D. White, Henry Wilson, Felix Macedo, Clive Saunders, Derek K. Smith, George Turney, Terence Burke, Eric Laws, J. Boyce.

School Service Prizes: T. H. Halsey, R. W. Lardner, D. R. Smith.

A.T.C. Service Prize: Eric Laws.

Prizes for Merit (Forms): 3A, L. Hancock; 3B, T. F. Bagnall; 3C, D. A. Cobb; 3D, R. F. S. Clark; 4TA, G. H. Bell; 4TB, D. W. Creasey; 4GA, G. E. Edmundson; 4TH, D. Krailing; 5TA, T. Clarke; 5GA, M. McGowan; 5GB, R. Porter.

Prizes for Diligence (Houses, one per set).—Gainsborough—1, D. Krailing; 2, K. Edwards; 3, L. Hancock. Scott—1, J. H. Rose; 2, R. Doe; 3, M. McGowan. Smeaton—1, G. T. Evans; 2, S. Budden; 3, E. G. H. Dapp. Wren—1, A. D. Cattermole; 2, C. Sanders; 3, T. Pusterla and L. Argent.

General Subjects

English: J. D. White, P. Buckingham, R. Doe. History: B L. Starey, W. de Smith. Geography: F. Macedo, T. Pusterla, D. L. Cox. Mathematics: M. Sprague, J. A. Yates. Art: Eric Laws, J. Baker, B. J. Thomas. History of Architecture: T. Burke, M. Lane. Physics: H. Wilson, L. R. Gann. Mechanics: T. Burke, D. L. Eadon.

Technical Subjects

Building Drawing: C. Sanders, J. S. Barnett. Architectural Drawing: T. Burke, D. Krailing. Building Construction: E. C. P. Chalk, G. Evans. Practical Geometry: Clive Sanders, E. E. H. Bonell. Craft Practice, Brickwork: Ronald Porter, G. Charlesworth, J. M. Philpot, A. Cattermole. Carpentry and Joinery: J. A. Warren, J. R. Smith, G. H. Bell. Painting and Decorating: T. Clarke, A. E. Trehane. Plumbing: J. C. Gardiner, E. G. Dapp, D. W. Creasey. Handwriting Prize: D. Krailing. R.S.P.C.A. Prize: A. G. Murley.

Colours Certificates

Athletics—Full colours, J. E. Lothian; half colours, J. L. Barnett, P. C. Bruton, A. D. G. Cattermole, G. Evans, F. Macedo, A. J. Sage, D. A. Smith, J. D. White; junior colours, B. F. Ash, A. T. Chappell, J. J. Hayes, D. H. Mitchell.

Cricket—Full colours, M. J. McGowan, J. O'Connor, A. D. G. Cattermole, R. J. Grout. Junior colours, D. W. Callaghan.

Swimming—Full colours, M. J. McGowan, J. O'Connor, A. D. G. Cattermole, J. L. Barnett. Junior colours, D. Perry, R. F. Pratt, R. G. Raven, W. Upjohn, G. Williamson.

Football—Half colours, A. R. Harrison, F. Perugino, R. J. Grout, J. E. Lothian.

Boxing—Full colours, R. J. Grout. Half colours, F. A. Saunders.

Cross-country—Full colours, D. A. Smith, C. J. Sanders. Half colours, F. Macedo, A. J. Sage. Junior colours, A. T. Chappell, D. H. Mitchell.

HOUSE NOTES

GAINSBOROUGH HOUSE

Our record in sport has not been too good, though notable individual successes have been scored by members of the House. We won the Junior Cross-Country with 111 points, with Bilsby and Balzanelli filling the second and third places; and were second in the Senior Cross-Country with 117 points against Wren's 101. Sage was first and Cobb fourth in the Senior race.

In Athletics we were third, behind Scott and Wren; but Wren only beat us by a single point. Cobb won the School mile in 5min. 7.7 secs., and other individual winners were Jessett, Thomas, Dickson and Sage.

In Football we were eliminated in the first round of the Senior Competition, while in the Junior contest we beat Scott in the first round but lost to Wren 2—0 in the final. Bilsby and Casey played good football and we hope to put up a better show next year.

In Swimming the House came last in the contest for the Whitlock Shield owing to poor support by members, but Raven and Philpot put up good performances in the water.

In Boxing also we took bottom place though de Smith, Cox and Gascoine boxed well in their bouts.

But it is in the Diligence Competition that Gainsborough has been outstanding, having topped the list at every award since September, 1951. Krailing, Thomas, B. and Cox have been among those who have figured consistently in the Honours lists and only four Gainsborough names have appeared in the Defaulters lists.

A. J. SAGE.

SCOTT HOUSE

We have had a good year on the whole, our latest triumph being the winning of the Inter-House Athletics championship with a score of 230½ points — 100 points ahead of Wren, who beat us last year by 6 points. Cheeseman is to be congratulated on winning the Junior 100 and 220 yards races; and also on winning a Wandsworth Schools championship in the 100 yards.

Previously we had won the Inter-House Football contest by beating Wren 7—1 in the Senior Final. But our Junior team was beaten in the first round.

In the Boxing tournament, also, we took first place with 94 points against a next best, by Wren, of 71. Our congratulations to Foot on winning a Wandsworth badge for Boxing. We did not, however, do so well in Swimming or Cross-Country, as we only managed to come third in Swimming, third in the Senior Cross-Country and fourth in the Junior Cross-Country. Our first men home were Lear, who came second in the Senior race; and Swainson, who was fourth in the Junior.

Nor has our Diligence record been very creditable. We have been third at every award since September, 1951. Clarke, Cheeseman, Edmondson and Eadon have made scores of over 9; but we have had too many names on the Defaulters list.

Come on, Scott! Let us pull up our socks and get back to the top in Diligence, as we were a year ago.

J. LOTHIAN.

SMEATON HOUSE

Football.—We have no good report to make on our Football this year, as both our teams were knocked out in the first round of the Inter-House competition.

In Boxing, too, we were well behind in the tournament, but we are pleased to record that R. Grout boxed his way through the Wandsworth, Western and London championships and the semi-finals of the Great Britain championship at 9st. 6lbs. — only to be disqualified for being too light at the weigh-in for the final. K. Brown won a Wandsworth championship.

In Swimming, after a close contest, we were placed second. We won the Junior Team Race and K. Brown won the Junior Diving with a fine performance. During the short season some of our new boys learnt to swim and we feel we have some good material for the future.

At Cricket we won the Chalk Cup for the second year in succession, largely owing to the excellent bowling of D. Callaghan, who took 8 wickets for 24 in the final match.

In Athletics our successes have been more individual than as a team. Several of our boys represented the School in the District Sports, Hayes winning the Junior Hurdles and G. Evans taking third place in the Senior Long Jump.

In the Diligence contest Smeaton has been consistently at the bottom of the list; but our figures show steady improvement.

At Table Tennis we think we would have won the competition as we did last year. But there was no competition.

R. GROUT.

WREN HOUSE

The House did not do so well this year as last year.

Athletics.—The Inter-House Sports were held at Tooting Bec track on May 9th. The Wren team was picked from the small number of boys who seem to do everything. We were beaten this year by Scott by 100 points. Wren were second in the Senior Relay Race, and individual successes were scored by Cattermole (Senior High Jump), Argent (Shot) and Ash (Junior High Jump). Ash later on won the Junior High Jump at the Wandsworth District Sports.

Boxing.—We were second in the Inter-House tournament with 71 points against Scott's 94.

It is worthy of note that Scott scored so many of their points by their numerous entries. In this respect Wren failed rather badly owing to their habit of leaving all the work to the same select few boys.

At Football we supplied the finalists in both Senior and Junior contests. In the Senior final we were beaten by Scott 7—1 in a replay after a draw in which we had obligingly scored all Scott's goals for them! In the Junior final we beat Gainsborough 2—0. The backs, W. Evans and L. Argent, were the backbone of our team and deserve to be congratulated.

Swimming.—Here we have a different picture to show our ability. If it had not been for the boys who gained swimming certificates I don't think we would have won. Our Senior team—Barnett, Cattermole, Bruton, Pusterla—won the team race and we had a few individual winners. Upjohn won the Junior Free Style, Briggs the Junior Back Stroke, Cattermole the Senior Back Stroke and Barnett the Senior Diving.

Cross-Country.—This is a race which boys tend to dodge, but in it it is team work that counts. I should like to congratulate our team on coming first in the Senior and second in the Junior. Mitchell, who did well in coming third, was our first man home in the Senior.

In the Diligence contest we have done fairly well. We have come a steady second all through the year, and have had an individual prizewinner, L. Argent.

J. S. BARNETT.

FOOTBALL, 1951-52

The School teams had quite a successful season. The Senior team won five games out of nine played, while the Premier team, by winning two of their three matches, were bracketed with Wandsworth Technical College at the head of their league.

R. Grout, R. Doe, A. Cattermole and E. Bryant of the Premier side, and L. Argent, Smeddles, Dean and V. Bilsby of the Seniors, were the most consistent players.

Bilsby played for the Wandsworth Schools Under-14 Eleven.

Colours awarded.—Full: R. Grout. Half: R. Doe, A. Cattermole, L. Argent, J. Philpot, Dean. Junior: V. Bilsby.

INTER-HOUSE RESULTS.

Seniors.—1st Round: Wren 3, Gainsborough 2; Scott 5, Smeaton 0. Final (replayed after 2—2 draw): Scott 7, Wren 1.

Juniors. — 1st Round: Wren 2, Smeaton 0; Gainsborough 1, Scott 0. Final: Wren 2, Gainsborough 0.

R. GROUT.

BOXING

The Boxing Club has had more members this year than last. Quite a number of them entered for the Wandsworth Championships and R. Grout, K. Brown, R. Foot and Balzanelli went on to the next stage—the Western Division. Here Brown and Balzanelli lost their fights in the semi-finals, but Grout and Foot won their finals and so qualified for the London Championships contests. In these Foot dropped out at the semi-final stage, but Grout became London Champion at 9st. 6lbs.

It was a pity that, when he entered for the Great Britain Championship at that weight, he was disqualified for being too light. We had hopes that he would have won a Great Britain title for the School.

The Inter-House Boxing Tournament resulted in a victory for Scott House who, with 94 points, won the shield which Wren had held for two years. Wren scored 71 points, Gainsborough 61 and Smeaton 48 points.

The following Colours were awarded:—Full: R. Grout. Junior: R. Foot, F. Balzanelli, J. M. Moggridge.

M. MARRISON.

CROSS-COUNTRY, 1951-52

On the whole our team had a good season both in School and A.T.C. races. Cobb, Mitchell, Chappell and Sage were our most consistent performers. Sage was our representative in the Wandsworth "A" team which took second place in the Walton A.C. Schools Invitation Road Relay; and he came seventh in the Cambridge Harriers' Inter-Schools race, helping Wandsworth "B" team to win third place.

In the South London Grammar Schools race at Greenwich the Juniors won, putting up their best performance of the season. Sage was eighth, Cobb tenth, Chappell eleventh and Mitchell twelfth. Sage also took part in the Highgate Harriers and Ranelagh Harriers Inter-Schools races, coming forty-third in large fields on both occasions.

In the County of London Wing A.T.C. race, the Squadron won both Senior and Junior team awards. In the Junior race Sage was second, Cobb, Chappell, O'Connor and Mitchell fourth to seventh, and Ash, Yates and Lane ninth to eleventh; while in the Senior race Macedo came fourth, Ward fifth, Smith, D., seventh and Sanders eighth. In the Inter-House race run on January 30th on Wimbledon Common Wren won the Senior and Gainsborough the Junior team awards. In the Senior event ($3\frac{3}{4}$ miles), Sage was first (time, 23min. 3secs.), Lear second, Mitchell third and Cobb fourth. Lydiate won the Junior race ($2\frac{1}{2}$ miles) in 21min. 6secs., Bilsby was second, Balzanelli third and Swainson fourth.

Team points were: — Seniors: Wren, 101; Gainsborough, 117; Scott, 132; Smeaton, 188. Juniors: Gainsborough, 111; Wren, 128; Smeaton, 134; Scott, 166.

Colours awarded.—Full: A. Sage. Half: Cobb, Mitchell, Chapell, A., O'Connor.

A. SAGE.

CRICKET

This year's season started with a match against Haliford School, Shepperton. Winning the toss we put Haliford in to bat, on a wicket taking spin, and soon dismissed them for the meagre score of 19. Hawkins took 4 wickets for 3 runs and Grout 6 for 4. We then batted and passed our opponents' total for the loss of one wicket; and went on to score 53 for 2 before the day closed. Dean, who made 22 retired, was our outstanding batsman.

In the next match, against Hugh Myddelton School, we dismissed our opponents for 38, Hayes taking five wickets for 12 runs. In reply the School made 181, Hawkins scoring 53, Dean 48 and Grout 45.

The return match with Haliford School was more closely contested, Haliford scoring 68 (Gascoine 5 for 9), and the School 102 for 9 (Callaghan 33 not out).

Against Reeds School we lost. Our total was 70, of which Grout scored 48; Reeds scored 135 for 5.

It has been decided to award white Cricket caps to those who merit 1st XI colours.

In House matches (Junior) played to date Gainsborough beat Scott and Smeaton beat Wren.

R. GROUT.

A NOTE ON CRICKET PRACTICE

It should be every new boy's ambition to play eventually for the School 1st XI; and the way to achieve that ambition is to start practising now. Here are some simple rules:—

In bowling, it is more important to concentrate, in the early stages, on good length bowling on the wicket than to try to bowl fast.

In batting, get your head over the line of the bat and keep your elbow well up. You will then present a straight bat to the ball and will avoid giving catches.

Don't forget the importance of fielding. A mediocre batsman, who is a keen, alert fielder, will be more valuable to the team than a good batsman whose fielding is poor. It is just as important to prevent your opponent from scoring as to make a big score yourself.

R.W.A.K.

SWIMMING GALA

The Gala was held at the Wandsworth Baths on the 1st October. Wren House won the Whitlock Shield after a keen contest in which points scored for certificates gained during the year counted as well as points for winning events in the Gala. Details of the Gala results were as follows:—

Team Race (4 x 1 length).—Senior: 1, Wren; 2, Scott; 3, Gainsborough. Junior: 1, Smeaton; 2, Wren; 3, Gainsborough; 4, Scott.

Breast Stroke.—Senior: 1, Buckingham (Sc); 2, Blandford (Sm); 3, Gooding (G). Junior: 1, Cook E. (Sm); 2, Satchell (Sc); 3, Starey (W).

Back Stroke.—Senior: 1, Cattermole (W); 2, Philpott (G); 3, Grout (Sm). Juniior.—1, Briggs (W); 2, Maile (Sc); 3, Irving (G).

Free Style.—Senior: 1, O'Connor (Sc);2, Bruton (W); 3, Holloway (G). Junior: 1, Upjohn (W); 2, Wheeler (Sm); 3, Bailey (Sc).

Plunge.—1, Lothian (Sc); 2, Pateyjohns (Sm); 3, Pratt R. (W).

Under Water Race.—1, Hamer (Sc); 2, Brions (G); 3, Peevers (Sm).

Strugglers.—1, Croft (G); 2, Budden (Sm); 3, Woods (W).

Diving.—Senior: 1, Barrett (W); 2, Grout (Sm); 3, Sanders (W). Junior: 1, Brown (Sm); 2, Perry (Sm); 3, Foot (Sc).

Novelty Balloon Race. — 1, Bruton (W); 2, Pusterla (W); 3, Cobb (G).

Open Championship. — 1, O'Connor (Sc); 2, Raven (G); 3, Sanders (W).

Colours awarded.—Full: O'Connor, Cattermole, McGowan, Barrett. Junior: Williamson, Upjohn, Raven, Pratt, Perry.

J. O'C.

ATHLETICS

The Inter-House Athletic contest was held on Tooting track on Friday, May 9th. Fine weather helped to make it a most enjoyable meeting.

There were no exceptional results but a high standard was maintained.

Scott House ran out easy victors and there was a great struggle for second place, finally won by Wren, who were one point in front of both Gainsborough and Smeaton.

The combined team in the District Sports won both the Senior and Junior Championships.

Ash did particularly well to jump 4ft. 10½ins., (nearly his own height) to win the Junior High Jump. Other winners were Cheeseman, Hayes and Lothian, all of whom are to represent the District. Good luck!

R.F.R.C.

The results of the School Sports were as follfollows:—

100 Yards.—Open: 1, Sprague (Sc); 2, Lothian (Sc); 3, Barnett (W). Time 11secs. Under 15: 1, Cheeseman (Sc); 2, Hayes (Sm); 3, Burnett (Sc). Time 11.8secs. Under 14: 1, Foot (Sc); 2, Tucker (Sc); 3, O'Hara (W). Time 13.4secs.

220 Yards.—Open: 1, Sprague (Sc); 2, Lothian (Sc); 3, Cox (G). Time 24.8secs. Under 15: 1, Cheeseman (Sc); 2, Burnett (Sc); 3, Simms (Sm). Time 27.4secs. Under 14: 1, Foot (Sc); 2, Tucker (Sc); 3, O'Hara (W). Time 30.7secs.

440 Yards.—Open: 1, Mitchell (W); 2, Maybanks (Sc); 3, Hancock (G). Time 63secs. Under 15: 1, Bailey (Sc); 2, Berry (Sc); 3, Jones (Sc). Time 66.6secs. Under 14: 1, Dickson (G); 2, Cripps (W); 3, Larkin (Sm). Time 69.9secs.

880 Yards.—Open: 1, Sage (G); 2, Cobb (G); 3, Chappell (W). Time 2mins. 20.8secs. Under 15: 1, Ash (W); 2, Berry (Sc); 3, Ridout (Sm). Time 2mins. 30.2secs. Under 14: 1, Lydiate (Sm); 2, Waters (Sm); 3, Larkin (Sm). Time 2mins. 36.8secs.

One Mile.—Open: 1, Cobb (G); 2, Sage (G); 3, Chappell (W). Time 5mins. 8.3secs.

One Mile Walk.—1, Doe (Sc); 2, Yates (Sm); 3, Borrell (Sc). Time 9mins. 25secs.

Hurdles.—Open: 1, Gann (G); 2, Peevers (Sm); 3, McKenna (Sc). Time 21.5secs. Under 15: 1, Hayes (Sm); 2, Ash (W); 3, Turner (Sm). Time 12.2secs.

High Jump. — Open: 1, Cattermole (W); 2, Lothian (Sc); 3, Borrell (Sc). Height 4ft. 7in. Under 15: 1, Ash (W); 2, Milne (Sc); 3, Gascoigne (G). Height 4ft. 7in.

Long Jump.—Open: 1, Sprague (Sc); 2, Eadon (Sc); 3, Green (W). Distance 17ft. 11in. Under 15: 1, Hayes (Sm); 2, Gascoine (G); 3, Ridout (Sm). Distance 14ft. 8in.

Discus.—Open: 1, Jessett (G); 2, Pusterla (W); 3, Cattermole (W). Distance 84ft. 4in. Under 15: 1, Vigar (Sm); 2, Chouffot (G); 3, McElhone (Sm). Distance 62ft. 3in.

Javelin.—Open: 1, Thomas (G); 2, Chalk (Sm); 3, Freedman (Sm). Distance 107ft. 8in. Under 15: 1, Vigar (Sm); 2, Cook E. (Sm); 3, Raven (G). Distance 98ft. 3in.

Shot.—Open: 1, Argent (W); 2, Jessett (G); 3, Joslin (Sc). Distance 31ft. 10in. Under 15: 1, Bailey (Sc); 2, Eccleston (W); 3, Butlin (G). Dis tance 29ft. 6in.

Relay.—Senior: 1, Scott; 2, Wren; 3, Gainsborough. Time 51.7secs. Junior: 1, Smeaton; 2, Scott; 3, Gainsborough; 4, Wren. Time 57.3 secs.

The result of the Inter-House competition was: 1, Scott, 230½; 2, Wren, 130½; 3, Gainsborough and Smeaton 129½.

On June 20th the School had its annual Athletics Contest with the Brixton School of Building. This resulted in a victory for Brixton by 239 points to 219. For the School Sprague won the open 100 yards and long jump, Lothian the open 220 yards, Davison the 440 yards, Barnett the shot and Pusterla the discus. In the junior events Cheeseman won the 100 yards, Turner the hurdles, Bailey the junior shot and Ash the junior high jump. Ash handsomely beat his previous best by clearing 5ft. 1in.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION NOTES

The Association has progressed considerably since it was first inaugurated in 1950 and meets regularly every term. The Officers chosen last September for the present educational year were as follows:—President, Mr. E. Chalk; Vice-President, Mr. MacGowan; Treasurer, Mr. Clarke; Secretary, Mrs. K. Brown. Parents' Council: Messrs. A. Budden, S. Gooding, E. Gann, G. Hamilton, D. Mitchell, E. Turney, A. Staite, W. Johnson, Mrs. Chalk, Mrs. Maile, Mrs. Hollis, Mrs. Paige, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Bullen and Mrs. Vincent.

There have been various Parents' functions, the first of which was a Jumble Sale on 17th November, 1951. This was a great financial success, particularly so as the weather left much to be desired.

The next function was a Whist and Beetle Drive on 28th November, 1951, a social evening for the parents and a first time Beetle Drive for a good many of us, myself included. I assure you if you haven't attended a Beetle Drive you haven't lived. It is tremendous fun and quite

simple to take part in. The evening was so successful that another Whist and Beetle Drive followed on 8th February, 1952 and was even better attended.

Our next function was a Dance at the Technical College, Wandsworth High Street, 1st March, 1952. This hall was chosen as its central position made it convenient for the majority of parents. This change was justified by the numbers who attended and made the evening again a financial and social success. By the way, we do have Olde-Tyme dances as well as modern, so don't let age prevent you from coming.

We are again to hold our Annual Parents v. Boys Cricket Match this summer; this time on the 19th July. As last year, it will be followed by a Social and Dance in the School Hall and all are invited to attend.

Periodically your boy should bring home circulars to inform you of the various functions which have been arranged. Please read these carefully and make a note of the various items and dates. Considerable time, thought and work goes into the printing of these circulars, which are produced for both your benefit and that of your boy. Apparently, boys do not always give them to their parents until after a function has taken place so I would suggest that you occasionally ask your boy if he has any Parents' Association information to give you!

So far this term, there has been one meeting at School, on Tuesday, 15th May, which was addressed by Mr. A. N. Goddard, A.R.I.B.A., Head of the Department of Structural Engineering at the School of Building, Brixton. He spoke on opportunities for boys of all types in the Building Trade and there was no doubt of the interest he created judging from the questions he was asked after the refreshment interval. We very much appreciate Mr. Goddard's kindness in coming to address us and look forward to his coming again in the not too distant future.

By the time this article is printed, the Summer Dance will have been held. I trust you will have helped to make it very successful.

MRS. K. BROWN.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

President: Mr. Murray. Secretary: J. Warren.

Our President has done a lot for the Club since our last report. We now have the use of an enlarger and a new dark room lamp for the new dark room which was built by Mr. Murray and the bricklayers.

Members now pay a small subscription.

Any boys wishing to join the Club should get in contact with the Secretary.

J.W.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Master in Charge: Mr. Toynton.
Secretary: A. Cattermole. Captain: R. Grout.

We have 40 members and the Club is run during the Autumn and Spring terms on Thursdays from 4 to 6. Members pay a subscription of 6d. a term, the money being used to buy new equipment.

During the School Exhibition 8 members took part in a tournament and three of them — R. Grout, D. Callaghan and A. Cattermole—tied for the first place.

New members are welcome.

A.C.

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President: Mr. Knibbs. Hon. Sec.: C. D. Miller.
Hon. Treas.: P. Overthrow.

After the Christmas holidays and the loss of Mr. Jeal, we were concerned for the Club's future, but the new Geography Master took a deep interest in the Club and became its President. The Club was reorganised, new members were enrolled from the third year boys, and soon the Club was back in full swing. Mr. Knibbs gave lectures on many aspects of Geology, and he brought along some of his own collection to illustrate his lectures. But the Club is badly off for apparatus, e.g., geological hammers and the like. A microscope would be most useful and would allow a new branch to be opened up to members. A trip was made on 23rd February to the Geological Museum, where we had an illustrated lecture about Cornish Granite. On one of our Monday evening meets we saw three films about physical geology. Our excursion to Sevenoaks was most interesting, and many specimens were collected. Eight members attended. We look forward to more such outings in the summer and hope that our members will be able some day to make a geological map of a small area in the Wealden District. New members are always welcome. The subscription for the fourth year members is 3d. per fortnight; for 1st year it is 2d.

C.D.M.

ANGLING CLUB

President: Mr. Gee. Secretary: R. Allinson.

The Club has been active this season and all members have been eager to catch fish. We have made several excursions to the Thames and we hope that arrangements can be made later on for members to do some sea-fishing. I must mention that the President and Mr. Makin have both fished on the South Coast at Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Hastings and Brighton.

The Club is organising a party to go trout-fishing at Shepperton in the near future. For next season, we are all getting permits to fish in the Longwater and Leg of Mutton ponds and various other fishing spots. Meanwhile we have, this season, caught fish of fair size in the Thames and the Grand Junction Canal at Uxbridge and one member has had good luck fishing in the River Mole for chub and trout.

At present the members of the Club are few but select. We would welcome new members for, with a large club, we will have a better chance of catching large fish, as each member presumably has a "swim" of his own and one of these "swims" might produce glass-case specimens.

R.A.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Mr. Young. Secretary: J. Benson.

The Society has had seventy names on its rolls during the past year. Owing to there being a substantial balance in the funds the terminal subscription was reduced from 6d. to 3d. — a fact which undoubtedly caused the swelling of our numbers.

A competition was held on December 14th and was judged by Mr. Grinyer. In the Commonwealth Section Butlin, D. (4TA) won first prize with a display of George VI New Zealand; McElhone, D. (4TH) was second with a set of B.M.A. Malaya; and Benson, J. (5TH) third with Canada 1946 and 1949. In the Thematic Section Benson was first with a show of ships; Butlin (maps) was second and Hubbard, G. (3B) third with animals. No award was made in the Foreign Section, which only attracted two entries.

At the School Exhibition club members framed an attractive display of stamps in sets.

J.B.

PLASTIC AND HANDICRAFTS CLUB

President: Mr. Moss. Secretary: D. R. Dollery.

The Club has now been in existence for two years. We have added many new moulds to our collection, and have now started on sheet plastics. At the School Exhibition on March 6th the Club had a stand displaying completed products and members at work. Our meetings are on Monday evenings from 4 to about 5.30. We pay 3d. a week to buy materials and other necessary things.

D.R.D.

FILM CLUB

President: Mr. Knibbs.

We have shown several interesting films — "The Iron Horse," about the making of an Indian locomotive; "Festival Time," also set in India; and a film about a Southern Railway journey from Purley to Victoria, in the early part of the Spring Term. In the latter half we showed "Every Drop to Drink," about waterworks; "International Ice Patrol," about icebergs; "Johnny Jones," about an American schoolboy; and "Hoover Dam," about the Hoover Dam.

J. KIMBER.

CHESS CLUB

President: Mr. Pettitt. Sec.: D. McIlvenna.

The Club has been well attended. Its main meetings are held on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 5, but chess may now be played in the dinner hour on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

This year the Club was represented at the School Exhibition at which members took part in a Chess Tournament, each playing eight games. The winner was McIlvenna.

D. McI.

LIBRARY

The Library continues to flourish and, apart from the usual literature, has provided specialised information on a variety of subjects to the various School clubs and societies; e.g., geography, astronomy, photography, philately, physiology, toxophily, etymology, entomology, geology, meteorology, palacontology and ichthyology (It is just possible that there may be a boy who does not know the meanings of some of these words. If so, the Library can supply an excellent dictionary).

We were fortunate to receive during the year a grant of £100 and, in consequence, the Library has been considerably enlarged.

We would like to place on record our appreciation of the good work of the librarians, Cook and Harrod, who had to catalogue the new books as well as carry out their normal duties.

We have not yet attained our ambition of a separate room for the Library, but Studio 4 is set aside during the lunch break as a reading room where magazines and books on hobbies can be perused.

S.S.

AIR TRAINING CORPS

Since our last notes our usual high standard has been maintained in work and sport.

Sgt. R. C. Ward is to be congratulated on gaining his Advanced Training Certificate; and Sgts. Eadon and Yates, Cpls. Gann, Dapp, Lane, Thomas and Wallace, and Colt D'Archambaud their Proficiency Certificates.

Once again a party of 59 spent a most instructive and enjoyable week at the Central Gunnery School, Leconfield, E. Yorks. A number of cadets had their first experience of flying in Lincolns. The weather was kind to us and we had a good demonstration of rocket-firing by Vampires at Skipsea. We had a genuine search by the Air-Sea Rescue unit at Bridlington when a Meteor from another station went "into the drink" about a mile off shore during our visit. We also gave a good account of ourselves in the Station athletic trials.

In the County of London Wing Cross-Country race we won the Senior and Junior championships. In the Senior L.Cpl. D'Archambaud ran particularly well, finishing several minutes in front. The 61 Group championship at Chingford had to be cancelled owing to deep snow.

The Wing Athletic Sports resulted in another victory for us with 91 points against 83 points scored by 591 Battersea Grammar, and 45½ by 296 Stoke Newington. We also retained the Under 15 Price Cup.

During a week-end endurance test F/Sgt. White and Cpl. Starey penetrated deep into the wilds of Scotland.

More recently a navigational exercise was won by Sgt. Yates and Cpl. Wallace.

In conclusion, we would like, once again, to thank Miss Patkin for her continued support of our "inner needs." Whatever the weather we can rely on seeing her cheery face every Monday and Friday; and we hesitate to think what we would do without her.

R.F.R.C.

END OF TERM VISITS

It is our custom to arrange visits of educational value near the end of the Summer Term after the School Certificate examinations are over; and probably the most popular trip was the one we made to the Aluminous Cement Works at Grays

in Essex. The facts that transport by coach to and from the works is provided by the Cement Company and that a first-class tea rounds off the visit doubtless exercise some influence on the minds of the boys; but, apart from this, the visit is a most interesting one.

Here the process of converting the raw materials into the finished product may be seen throughout and, on occasions, the boys are allowed to ride over the bauxite pits in a travelling crane which is one of the largest in the country. A particularly attractive feature in the Works is the filling plant where the paper bags are filled, sealed and conveyed away in a few seconds.

Another visit we made was to the Neuchatel Asphalte works in Townmead Road, Fulham. Here we walked round seeing the processes involved in the manufacture of asphalt and associated products and we became very dusty and thirsty in doing so. But we found a remedy in the Works canteen at the end of our tour and the afternoon was rounded off by the party being transported home in a variety of vehicles including lorries part loaded with sacks, with seats at floor level.

A visit nearer home was made to the joinery works of Messrs. Holloways Ltd. in Magdalen Road, Earlsfield. Here it is possibly a little disconcerting to boys who have laboured with great devotion for three or four lessons to make a dovetail joint which, when finished, "could have fitted a little better anyway," to see the whole of the dovetail joints of a drawer made perfectly by a machine in three or four seconds. But they can take comfort in the thought that the essential object of their making of dovetail or other joints is the creation and developing of that skill without which nothing could be made by hand or machine.

Many other mechanical marvels are there to be seen; but fortunately on the upper floor is something which can revive the flagging spirits of our embryo carpenters and joiners, namely a series of benches at which joiners, old and young, but all skilled in the use of their hands, do things to the wood which the machines downstairs are incapable of doing. Here the finer processes and special jobs are carried out.

In the surrounding grounds may be seen piles of timber at various stages of seasoning; and also a wide variety of saws by which this timber is reduced to the required sizes.

A fourth visit was to the stonemasons' yard of Trollope and Colls at Nine Elms. Here can be seen all the processes, by hand or machine, used for transferring crude blocks of stone into shapes which are often intricate and delicately beautiful. The boys were able to see the drawings being prepared for the reconstruction of the spire of Salisbury Cathedral, and were impressed (we hope!) by the amount of geometrical knowledge required for work of this description.

A yard like this seems to provide an apt illustration of the phrase "order from chaos." The first impression the visitor gets is one of complete or nearly complete chaos, but, as he progresses round the place, he becomes aware of a general building up of the sequences which eventually produce the finished article. The fact, moreover, that everything is covered with dust and that the machines definitely have "that museum appearance" does not give an impression of slick, up-to-date efficiency. But after a closer examination and some explanation from those in charge of the yard the visitor obtains a truer picture of the reality behind it all.

E.G.D.

DILIGENCE AWARD

Gainsborough has headed the list throughout the Autumn and Spring Terms; Wren has displaced Scott from second place and Smeaton has sunk to the bottom of the table. Details of scores (averages for award periods added together) —*Autumn Term,* 1951: Gainsborough, 22.53; Wren, 18.93; Scott, 17.51; Smeaton, 13.22. *Spring Term,* 1952: Gainsborough, 24.18; Wren, 20.3; Scott, 16.84; Smeaton, 13.18. For individual scores Cox (5GA) holds the record with 12½ points, which was half a point better than Argent's score in November, 1951.

"TIRED OF BEING MEN"

This extraordinary phrase was used by Monsieur Caesar Santelli, the General Inspector of Schools in Paris, at an educational Congress in Vienna that I attended during Whit week this year.

You may well ask why I was in Vienna when, except for the Monday and Tuesday, you were all at school. Was I "tired of being a headmaster?"

Actually the subject of the International Congress at Vienna was Education and Democracy, and I had been invited to attend to contribute the British point of view.

The spokesmen of the United States, France, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Sweden, and Austria all agreed about the importance of educating for the democratic way of life. And you will have no doubt that my address strongly supported the same point of view.

The representatives of the other nations warmly endorsed a point I stressed, on the importance of regarding the school not only as classes organised for instruction, but as groups organised for living and learning. This, by the way, is a peculiarly British tradition and is much admired abroad. Our idea of the school as a social community makes it possible for pupils to learn democratic ways and habits by actual experience, especially in the running of out of school activities which call for the democratic qualities of responsibility, co-operation and initiative.

These are the qualities that make a man a real person and not merely a "hand" or a cog in the wheel. They are fostered by a general education that widens one's interests and enables one to express oneself clearly and to think straight. That is why general subjects should be regarded as so important.

Now to return to my title. Mons. Santelli, who followed me on the platform, thought that the greatest danger to the world came from people who failed to develop these qualities of a man: individuals who were "tired of being men" and submerged themselves in the herd mind.

That is often the easier thing to do, to follow the line of least or no resistance; thoughtlessly or

passively to follow the big drum. It often seems the safer thing at the time. But in the long run it brings a people into terrible danger, as we have seen in our own time.

My idea of Wandsworth School is as a place for people who are willing to make the effort to be real persons. It is no place for those who are "tired of being men."

H.R.K.

NEW BOYS: 1951-2

3A

Adams T. J.
Bewley T. H.
Beetlestone A. G.
Bird A. G.
Butcher A. D.
Carver M. J.
Cheeseman R. R.
Cogan B. K.
Collins B.
Coe A. B.
Cox B. P.
Dickson J.
Hammond D.
Frost B. W.
Hayler R.
Jones D. H. C.
Leach N. J.
Lifford M. J.
Loftus R. C.
Morrell M.
North R. A.
Partridge A.
Regan C.
Vigar B. P.
Satchell B. E.
Schadendorf R. J.
Simms D.
Staite J. R.
Tarrant A.
Topliffe F.

3B

Allinson R.
Belcher A.
Bilsby V. J.
Beard A. R.
Carter M.
Chittenden P. D.
Donnelly M.
Gleed B. J.
Hayes J.
Hubbard G.
Kelly J. P.
Kimber G. J.
King J. R.
Mellish D. F.
Milne J.
Millward J. W.
Morrell M.
Ridout B.
Sallis R. W. J.
Sanders P. A.
Shepherd T.
Silvester L.
Starey R.
Stow E. P.
Swainson E.
Tarrant A.
Turner F.
Walker M. J. A.
Waters I. P.
Watkins D. T.
Williams T. O.

3C

Avis P. L.
Blackbourn A. R.
Blanchett D. G.
Calver R.
Carr R.
Carvall S. H.
Casey G. P.
Cole P.
Cripps R. E.
Daly W. J.
Ford A. H.
Greenwood S. C.
Gritt A. H.
Hiscock M. J.
Johnson P.
Kenning B. R.
Larkum P. C.
Lawson B. P.
Lydiate G.
Miller C. D.
Moggridge J. M.
Murley A. G.
Parkyn T.
Pope R. F. W.
Powick K. H.
Preston M. G.
Salussolia C.
Sheldrick D. L.
Smith John
Smith G. P.
Taynton D. E. W.
Thurston L.
Woodley V. J. P.

3D

Abbey L. K.
Baber J. C.
Balzanelli F. P.
Bennett G. A.
Bentham J. B.
Blandford D. W.
Budgen T. M.
Burchell D. F.
Burnett C. M.
Chapman M. W.
Chouffot G. B.
Davis N. V.
Davies N. G. J.
Foot R. L.

3D *(contd.)*

Fry J.
Green W.
Harrison J. B.
Higgins M. J.
Jepson W. G.
Marrison M. H.
Martin M. G.
O'Hara A. J.
Pell M. J.
Rose F.
Simpkins A. E.
Stoneman W. J.
Thomas M. D.
Tucker D. M.
Tyler M. B.
Wheeler J. W.
Williams M. C.
Wills P.
Woodstock M. G.

4GA.—Deak, J.
4TA.—Brock, J. A., Camp, V. P.
4TH.—Bennett, C. W.

ITALIAN JOURNEY

During the Easter vacation I had an opportunity to visit the three famous cities of Rome, Florence and Venice, which was too good to miss so—

I left Victoria early on the morning of the day before Good Friday and after continuous travelling via Newhaven, Dieppe, Paris, Dijon, Modane, Turin and Genoa, arrived in Rome on Good Friday at 9 p.m.; a long journey but an interesting one. I ate my evening meal in Paris amid the usual dust, bustle and clatter: arrived at Dijon with a full moon creating ghostly pictures around: Modane at daybreak, with customs officers insisting on my opening my suitcase on the pretext that it could hold a lot of tobacco! This was particularly annoying as it was crammed full of ordinary wear which tumbled out in an undignified heap on the seat and caused uncharitable thoughts to pass through my mind. However, it satisfied the customs officers, who hurriedly withdrew with muttered apologies, and I was left to repack.

The train reached Turin at about 10 a.m., where someone hit on the happy idea of putting on a restaurant car. So I had breakfast at 11 o'clock, after which my appreciation of even the flat Lombardy Plain improved considerably. Genoa was very attractive, with its groves of palms and orange trees offering restful shelter from a blazing sun and pitiless blue sky; so was the long coastline, which the railway skirted almost to Pisa, from which latter station I saw Galileo's apparatus, the famous leaning tower, near the Cathedral, about a mile away.

And finally to Rome, with its blazing neons and noisy street cars, packed with pilgrims and travellers, providing a contrast to what I imagined would be its normal greeting to a tired and dusty traveller 2,000 years ago. But Rome is an amazing city; one I cannot do justice to in the short compass of this essay. It covers a large area, new and old strikingly intermingled.

Standing in the Forum and looking round, it is not difficult to visualise the busy scenes of the market place of the Caesars, Patricians and Plebs rubbing shoulders, perhaps not too happily, in the narrow streets; would-be orators addressing indifferent and dubious listeners; silent slaves awaiting purchase; and the huge basilica of Maxentius—Constantine frowning bulkily over it; all under the same wonderful blue vault of heaven. And the Colosseum — what pictures spring to mind! I saw it first in the moonlight, a grim skeleton of the past, haunted by the spirits of the early Christians, whose blood so often stained its sanded floor. I saw it several times

again, in sunshine and cloud, and saw in my mind's eye, the stands packed with 50,000 people, on pleasure bent, watching the combats. Gladiators, soldiers, defenceless white-robed Christians and wild beasts, all appeared in turn; and, above it all, I heard the shouts of the people, the lust for blood, directing the thumbs of the vestal virgins, the wrong way unfortunately only too often. And my thoughts strayed to more modern times and wondered if human nature had really changed.

But now to St. Peter's, the largest Cathedral in the world, which I visited on Easter Sunday along with at least 300,000 others of all nationalities and creeds. I saw the Pope and heard him deliver his annual address from the balcony overlooking the famous square, in which we were tightly packed. And what an ovation he received, not only at the end of his speech but as soon as he made his appearance on the balcony!

I spent exactly a week in Rome, visiting among other places of historic interest, the Pantheon, the large pagan Temple built before Christ was born: the Catacombs, where the Christians were buried outside the walls of Rome; Ostia Antica, the old Roman Lido, where Romans disported themselves in the blue Mediterranean but which is now some way inland due to the recession of the sea, very much as Southport has been left in this country.

From Rome I took train to Florence, the centre of Italian art; a pleasant city with a style of its own; a jewel set in wooded hills on the River Arno and overlooked by the lofty Fiesole, the old Roman settlement perched high above it. Among many pleasant memories, I vividly retain those of the Pontevecchio, or old bridge, still nobly carrying its array of old houses: the paintings of Botticelli and Lorenzo in the Uffizi Gallery: the massive marble Cathedral: the ornate Medici Chapels: Michel Angelo's famous sculpture of "David": the Roman Amphitheatre and Swimming Bath at Fiesole. During my four days' stay, I paid a short visit to Pisa, where I admired the Cathedral and climbed the famous leaning tower, of which it really forms part, although detached, as is usual in Italy. It was quite an experience walking round the canted platform at the top, uphill one way and downhill the other, in a strong wind and well above the gilded cross on the top of the Dome of the Cathedral; and the people in the square below looking like mites creeping sluggishly about.

From Florence, I went to Venice, arriving in a cloudburst; and it rained practically the whole of the three days I was there. So much so that I bought an umbrella, one of the few articles which are cheap in Italy.

I was disappointed in Venice, having always associated it with silvery waters, graceful gondolas and sunny skies. I found everywhere damp and smelling of it; some of the less-used canals smelling worse; the gondolas clumsy, slow and expensive; and a lack of romance everywhere. Not a level ground floor in any building, due to regular inundations by a relentless sea; the beautiful, marble, mosaic floor of the Cathedral resembling more the hazardous fairway of a golf course than a flat surface. Or should I compare it more nautically with the surface of its encroaching element, the sea? There was, however, one blessing: the absence of noise. There were no motor cars, no buses, no trains, no cycles; and no pavements —just narrow roadways and canals, hopelessly jumbled together in a directionless maze. One slip and—splash! into a canal, as there is no protection except on the bridges; so sobriety in Venice is not merely a virtue but a necessity.

However, looking back on the holiday, I enjoyed it immensely but I still haven't mastered the art of eating spaghetti; not that I particularly want to as I much prefer good British broth.

J.M.

MISCELLANY — AND A LITTLE EDITORIAL

It is our long-term aim—or dream—to build up the *Pyramid* on contributions from the boys. Pyramids, after all, should be broadly based. But we are a long way from achieving that aim. House and Sports captains and Club secretaries write their reports, which are printed after some sub-editing; but boys' descriptions of camps, School visits and journeys are hard to get.

The Miscellany section, however, could become a boys' preserve. We are glad, therefore, to print the contributions given below; and we want more for our next number.

Nobody attempted to win the Clerihew prize offered in Pyramid No. 2. We repeat the offer and, as alternatives to clerihews, will consider 4-line epigrams on the theme, "It is better to try and fail than to fail to try."

Five shillings is the prize.

Now for our contributions.

The first poem, by Stoneman (3D) bore no title. Perhaps our readers can supply one — but no prizes are offered.

?

'Twas early in September
  Last October in July;
The moon lay thick upon the ground,
  The snow shone in the sky.

All the flowers were whistling
  And the birds were in full bloom,
As I went down to the cellar
  To sweep the upstairs room.

Ten thousand yards away I saw
  A house just out of view,
Alone it stood, between two more,
  And its walls were whitewashed blue.

The next poem seems to be a protest against the proposed increase in the academic content of our curriculum.

TECHNICAL BRANCH

Six hours a day we toil away
  With mortar, bricks and trowels;
Or, at the bench, our wrists we wrench
  In making joints and dowels.
    Then Maths and Arts all play their parts
    And do their best to break our hearts.
Again, again, we drive our brain
  To learn "stinks," dates, maps, clauses, vowels—
An awful strain — and all in vain!
  Let's stick to chisels, files and trowels.

R. LOFTUS (3A).

A short answer in defence of the academic subject so contemptuously dismissed by Loftus as "Clauses, vowels," may be given—in epigram form.

WOT? NO ENGLISH?

Parents and boys prepare to sob!
Here is a story short and sad.
Tom failed to get a decent job
Because he wrote and spoke so bad.

Finally—to break the 3rd form monopoly—Lucas (5GA) and Hutchens (5TA) have produced accounts of School visits.

VISIT TO HAMPTON COURT

On the 20th May a visit to Hampton Court was arranged to allow the Grammar School boys to complete a study of the Palace as part of their Architectural History for the G.C. examination; and a number of Decorators and Generals from the Building Branch accompanied them. It was a scorching day and we were very glad when our official guide, Captain Cook, of the Office of Works, took us inside the Palace. Before doing so, however, he pointed out the two different styles of architecture — which was not really necessary, as they were unmistakeable, even to us.

The Tudor part was built by Cardinal Wolsey and Henry VIII, the Classical part by Christopher Wren for William and Mary from 1689 onwards.

We first went through the State Rooms of William and Mary and George I. The ceilings were covered with wonderful pictures painted by Antonio Verrio, the walls were hung with paintings and tapestries, mostly about religious subjects. Captain Cook pointed out a painting by Holbein which he said would sell for about £30,000, if put up to auction. There are also two Tintorettos in William III's Audience Chamber.

The interior decoration of this part of the Palace is typical of the Late Renaissance style. The overmantel in the King's Drawing Room is ornamented with elaborate festoons, wreaths and cherubs carved in the most delicate detail out of pear-wood by Grinling Gibbons.

Passing through the State Rooms of George I and Queen Caroline we went out into the Great Fountain Garden, with its radiating avenues and long canal, to view Wren's East Wing. This, our guide told us, resembled Versailles, which was built by de Brasse and Mansard for the French Kings, Louis XIII and Louis XIV. Wren had been able to study Versailles when he visited Paris during the Great Plague year, 1665.

It was now time to take leave of our guide and on our way out we passed one of the "Grace and Favour" apartments which are allotted to persons who have served their country well. This one was occupied by Lady Baden Powell. Then we went through the famous Herb Garden of Henry VIII, and after our two hours of walking through the Palace we all enjoyed the light refreshments which were served under the apple and pear trees in the tea garden.

K. LUCAS.

TIMBER IN KEW GARDENS

On May 20th a small party of boys from the Carpentry Section, accompanied by Mr. Guttridge, made an all-day trip to Kew Gardens, with the object of studying the trees and the timber samples from all parts of the world displayed in the museums. The morning was spent in inspecting the many varieties of both hardwood and softwood trees, some native to the British Isles and many imported from overseas.

Kew Gardens is an ideal place for the study of trees because most of them bear labels which, besides giving the name and botanical species, supply interesting details of the country of origin of the tree, and the qualities and uses of its timber. A point of great interest was the variety of the types of oak trees, which included English, Hungarian, Slovakian, Turkish, American and Japanese.

The flag-pole, reputed to be the largest in the British Isles, was found to be of Douglas Fir. It was 214 feet high, 2 feet 9 inches in diameter at the base and 1 foot in diameter at the top. These figures provided us with an exercise in calculating how many cubic feet of timber it contained. Our answers varied a little but we finally agreed that there were 322 cubic feet, or almost two standards of timber in that pole.

After lunch we visited the museums and examined with interest the numerous and varied samples of timber, taking particular note of the section from a New Zealand hardwood tree which, when felled, was over two thousand years old. It bore a label showing its size at many important dates in history.

The showcases contained many examples of intricate workmanship, particularly in veneered work by oriental craftsmen; and there were many garden and farm implements made from home-grown timbers on view.

Altogether it was a very enjoyable day and we agreed that it was a well worthwhile visit of much interest to boys who, using wood in their school practical work, had the opportunity of seeing it growing.

V. HUTCHENS.

This concludes Miscellany — from lack of material. This year we are filling up the vacant space with a puzzle item. The clue is to be found in the word "Spoonerism."

Can you make a sensible poem out of it?

PHAETON SOILED

Neglected corders bawled for my sickle
The drummer was a sigh one,
There came a Troy upon a bicycle
Who called "Mop be and sty one!"

But I was byred high the day
Hand earthy of my wire;
I burned my tack and slashed away
At thistle, brock and dyer.

The lad drew near; "Sigh one! he bed;
The pet sword from my forehead —
"Crisis!" he eyed; I hook my shed —
(They ache my heath make torrid).