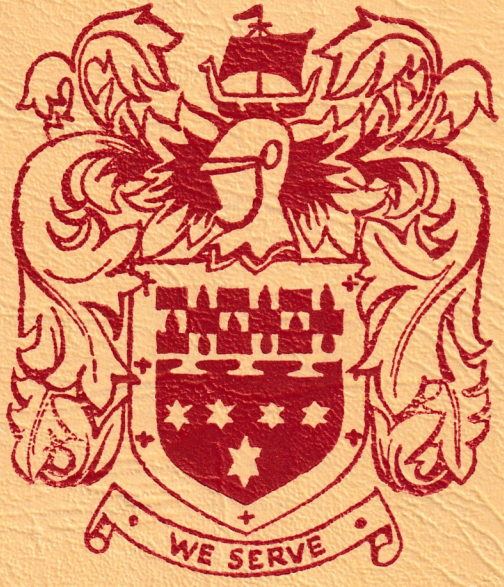
THE LINK



WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

APRIL 1954

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CLOSING DATE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUMMER ISSUE: MONDAY 14th JUNE.

This is the last date on which contributions will be accepted for consideration—NOT the date on which nine contributions out of ten are to be handed in. The majority of contributions should be in at least ten days before the closing date.

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THE LINK

THE MAGAZINE OF WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

VOL. XXXIX APRIL, 1954 No. 1

HEADMASTER'S NOTES

With the commencement this term of the building operations, the future Comprehensive High School begins to take tangible shape. For many years now those of us who will be concerned in this great expansion of the School have been considering the problems it will set. Now that it is at last definitely on the way, our plans are taking more detailed shape. I should like to keep both boys and parents "in the picture" as much as possible, and with this in view I devoted the first half of the Headmaster's Notes last term to a few preliminary considerations. In the present Notes I want to deal with other general aspects.

The first point I wish to make is that, although the Comprehensive High School raises considerable difficulties in the way of organisation, it actually solves the really fundamental problems that face national secondary education at the present time. The tripartite system of grammar, technical and modern secondary schools confronts us with the virtually insoluble problems of selection at 11 years of age and complicates the problem of "secondary education for all" as promised by the Education Act of 1944. To these problems the Comprehensive School offers the only satisfying solution that has yet been put forward.

My second point is that a large school, such as the Comprehensive School must be if it is to deserve the name, means the exact opposite of mass education. Only a large school can offer the range and variety of classes that enable us to fit the education to the pupil and take account of individual differences. In a small single form entry school, all pupils would have to follow the same course, irrespective of bent, ability and aptitude. That could truly be called mass production.

Moreover, by the laws of simple arithmetic, on any given staffing ratio, the larger the school the smaller in practice the working group, or, to put it another way, the larger the school the larger the number of small working groups that it can afford to staff. It is this factor which enables us at present with 350 boys to have as many small working sets as we do in the Fifth and Sixth Forms. A smaller School could not offer such advantages.

The third point I must stress is that the essential nature of the Comprehensive School is to offer a range and variety of educational content, method and approach. Equality of opportunity does not mean identity of treatment, the same course for all. Identity of provision would mean anything but equality of opportunity. We must vary the provision according to individual needs in order to give every pupil his best chance.

And my fourth and, for this occasion, final point is that the future Wandsworth School will take shape as an expansion of the present school, carrying forward the best in its tradition and maintaining its standards: particularly its academic standards. The fact that alongside the academic standards we shall also aim at the highest standards in technical engineering and building courses, and develop a modern type of secondary education up to 16 and beyond, will certainly imply no diminution of academic achievements.

If it were a case of closing Wandsworth School and transferring us elsewhere to be absorbed in a comprehensive school—as unfortunately has happened in one well-known case—we might have grounds for alarm and despondency. As it is, we proceed by development, not envelopment, and, as I said in last term's Link, we shall have, by the time

the new premises are ready, some 900 of our own boys to form a large nucleus for the future school.

I was profoundly shocked to hear of the sudden and tragic death of Mr. Culverwell. During the five years that he had been on the staff he had made himself very much a part of the School, giving generously of his time to many school activities, and earning the regard of juniors and seniors alike, by his friendly personality. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his widow and daughter.

The School has lost another old friend by the death of Mr. Terry. He will be remembered by some of the senior boys and by countless old Wandsworthians as a scholar and a saint.

Dr. T. B. Kankan rejoined the Staff this term after five years secondment to the Government of India, where has has been Headmaster of an important Indian public school and latterly of a military education academy. Apart from his services to the school, Dr. Kankan won the admiration of the Parents' Association during his earlier period of service for his highly efficient help in the organisation of the Summer Fete.

Mr. G. R. Gibson, another member of the Staff, at present seconded to the Gold Coast, keeps us regularly informed of his activities and contributes to the present number an account of Kumasi College where he is serving.

It was most interesting to hear from Mr. Geoffrey Beck, who as honorary secretary tided the Parents' Association over the war years and re-launched it before handing over to Mr. Scott. Mr. Beck has been out in East Africa travelling extensively in the capacity of revenue expert and "putting into useful practice," as he says, "some of my training in dealing with fraud and evasion in taxation matters." He would like to be remembered to all old members of the Parents' Association who knew him.

News has also been received of Ronald Milton, whose contemporaries just before the war will remember him. Elsewhere in this issue are extracts from a Singapore newspaper giving an account of his spectacular progress in his career in Civil Aviation.

We gratefully acknowledge a valuable gift of books to the School Library from Mrs. Marshall-Brown, Governor of the School.

I record with pleasure that the School was very successfully represented in the United Nations Association Rally at Albert Hall by Brinkley, Amir Ali, and Bowyer, on the occasion of the visit of the Secretary General of the U.N. and the "Way Ahead" Exhibition.

And now a bouquet to the School Rugger XV. Mr. J. F. Shillito, the London Society Referee, writes as follows:

"May I congratulate you on the really good rugger that your boys played against Harrow County School last Saturday—quite the best game that I have taken this season. Your forwards were good both in attack and defence, and your centre who intercepted and scored showed a true sense of opportunism."

I note for the record that the new pattern junior cap has been introduced this term. The material for the old pattern had to be specially woven and was gradually becoming more and more expensive. The change means a better quality cloth at a lower price.

Congratulations to R. W. Griffiths who was appointed a School Sub-Prefect at the end of last term.

AVETE ATQUE VALETE

New Boys since last issue of "The Link."
Hemmerlein, E. J., Jones, P. D., Wasserman, V.

Boys left since last issue of "The Link": Barnett, A. J., Batty, D. T., Bolton, M. F., Burgess, I. G. R., Chalk, A. N., Cornwell, A. W., Eldridge, P. T. G., Emerson, J. R., Gibbons, T. E. Grant, J. V., Holder, B. A., Lambert, R. G., Laundy, B. A., Paterson, D. G., Phillips, T. F., Purdy, A. R., Salmon, A. K. G., Smallwood, J. H., Tomkins, A. R., Wood, K. D.

Transfers: Lothian, J. E. (from Building Branch), Wynne, J. (to Building Branch).



ARTHUR PHILIP CULVERWELL, 1909–1954 The sudden death of Philip Culverwell was a profound shock to us all. He had such a zest for life, he was so full of enthusiam and was so obviously happy and absorbed in his work, that it is hard to realise that he has had to lay it down.

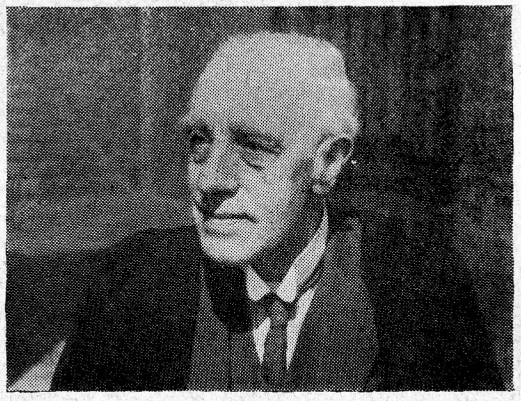
Most of us knew him as a schoolmaster, but in fact his earlier years were spent in the R.A.F. He was trained at Cranwell and Halton and spent twenty-three years at R.A.F. Stations at home and abroad. For some time he was a Sergeant Instructor, but later took commissioned rank and eventually became a Squadron Leader. He was back in England during the war and took part in the Battle of Britain until he was shot down over the North Sea and taken prisoner. For three years he was in German prisoner-of-war camps, including Stalag Luft III, renowned for its "Wooden Horse." It is tragic irony that after coming through the perils of war unscathed he should be knocked down and killed by a 'bus.

When his term of service was completed he retired to the R.A.F. Reserve and decided to become a teacher. He trained under the War Emergency scheme and after taking his Teachers' Certificate he was appointed to Wandsworth School to teach Geography and Art. To these subjects he soon added Nature Study, in which his facility as an artist was a great asset.

Teaching was for him a wise choice. In the five years that he had been at Wandsworth School we had come to appreciate his skill as a teacher, and even more his warm and friendly personality, his patience and his natural gift for dealing with small boys. They learned to admire and respect him and found in him a wise counsellor and a real friend. The key to his success as a schoolmaster was that he was himself still a boy at heart.

We miss him greatly, and treasure his memory and his example.

R. W. F.



CHARLES W. TERRY, M.A., 1879–1954 It is with great sadness that we record the death of Mr. Terry, who passed away on March 5th, after a period of illness borne with great cheerfulness. He had paid us a visit only a few months before, and less than three years ago he was still very active in the School as part-time teacher of Religious Instruction, a post he took up on his retirement from his position as Senior History Master. In all he had been on the Staff of Wandsworth School for thirty years, including the war years, when he worked at the School's temporary home in Woking. A full note on Mr. Terry's career appeared in " The Link " of Septe

Mr. Terry was a man of wide interests and solid attainments. A fine scholar, he did not value learning merely for its intrinsic interest, but always regarded his chosen studies in History and Holy Scripture as a means of understanding and improving the world of to-day. History was to him a living thing that could be studied not only in class-rooms and text-books, but in the streets of Wandsworth, in an ancient town or ruined building, or in a royal palace.

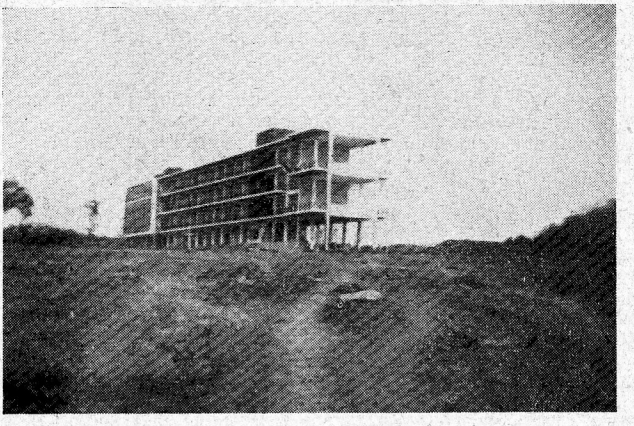
With a personality like his, the Historical Society of the School and the South-West London branch of the Historical Association flourished. Through his keen interest in world affairs and the cause of peace the school became affiliated to the League of Nations Union, while since the war he was instrumental in forming the local branch of the United Nations Association. He never lost that keen insight into foreign affairs that came from accurate study and personal observation, and maintained his contacts with the Royal Institute of International Affairs to which he was elected as a member in 1922.

These wide interests and his balanced, sane view of life were invaluable to him in his teaching, especially in the upper forms where his influence on several generations of Wandsworthians was very profound. Equally valuable was his personal influence as a Tutor and later as a Head of Pitt House. His pupils never failed to recognise his sincerity and integrity. His Christian faith had real meaning to him, it was an essential part of his life. Since 1910 he was licensed as a lay-preacher and delighted in rendering voluntary service wherever and whenever he was called upon. Those of us who knew his orderly systematic habits, his infectious enthusiasm for worthwhile causes, and his quiet, simple manner which made him such a pleasant companion.

We offer our sincerest condolences to Mrs. Terry and her daughters in their great loss.

J. A.

KUMASI COLLEGE The way from the temporary buildings to the new permanent classroom block of the Kumasi College of Technology lies one mile along a dusty red bush road, corrugated and rutted like all Gold Coast bush roads. If, in the heavy mist of morning, one drives along it for



first lecture at 8 a.m., one is hailed by numerous African children on their way, barefooted, to village school: "Give me ride master! Me nice boy!"; "Help me to school, master. I am sleepy!" Some of these children walk four miles to school and four miles back home again. Even African cheerfulness and willingness to learn cannot prevent some of them falling asleep during afternoon lessons. Although afternoon heat is often trying to Africans as well as Europeans, diet deficiencies may be a contributory factor to their afternoon lack of energy. On the other hand, there may be a great deal of sober truth in the saying, "Mad dogs and Englishmen . . ."

Students at the College, although mainly adult, behave similarly. Imagine the satisfaction of the lecturer who, in less than fifteen minutes, finds his afternoon group sleeping peacefully, lulled into that delightful state by his powerful exposition.

The College is growing, like a gigantic mushroom, out of dense bush. It began with prefabricated temporary buildings, but the first permanent teaching blocks, including a magnificent well equipped engineering department are nearing completion. Costs are astronomical, The constant fight to keep the bush in check itself costs a fortune. The tsetse (sleeping sickness) fly thrives locally and, as it cannot survive in cleared areas, provides an added reason for bush clearance. Mosquitoes have not been particularly troublesome although members of staff have occasionally developed malaria. A tiny, almost invisible, fly is a nuisance in the late afternoons and sometimes produces a three-day fever by its bites. One tends to notice pests only intermittently but, when a house is invaded by black driver ants, one has to take notice possibly having to leave the house until the visitation is past. These ants, anythings up to one inch long, march from place to place in long columns, three or four abreast in military formation, eating any living thing they can manage to cover completely. Fortunately, they are a decreasing menace.

At present the College comprises Agricultural, Commerce Music Engineering, Intoermediate Studies and Teacher Training Departments. Except for those taking a Special Rural Science course in the Agricultural Department, students are admitted only if they have a British "School

Certificate" qualification. Most present work is of Intermediate Degree standard but the Engineering Department has commenced developing Degree courses. The College will play a most important role in the development of West Africa.

I have visited many of the local schools which are intended to be the equivalent of English Modern Secondary Schools. Classes are large, equipmenot is poor, teaching standards are far from what they should be. As children have to buy their own books and other equipment and as an average daily wage for a labourer here is four to five shillings, many parents find it beyond their means to send children to school when a single textbook may cost six or seven shillings. I have sometimes wondered if I could be a liaison whereby boys of Wandsworth School could donate used books which they no longer require to a deserving school for a school library.

Time fleets by; there is always more to do than time allows; procrastination becomes inevitable. The heat does undermine one's energy; one's memory becomes a little lax. Despite the heat, study is still a necessity for students and most of them work really hard. They use textbooks more diligently than English students generally, partly because they tend to believe that once a textbook has been worked from cover to cover, a subject has been mastered, partly, too because of language difficulties.

GEORGE GIBSON.

"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE" AT WANDSWORTH SCHOOL.

Production by Mr. E. E. Bacchus and Mr. T. G. Benyon.

Business Manager — Mr. A. P. Culverwell

Stage Manager ... ... Mr. H. C. Hall
Make-up ... Mr. S. Cowan, Mr. G. M. Evans, Mr. J. D. Robertson
Music ... Messrs. J. Keyte, R. W. Eeles, B. C. Johnston, D. T. King, G. R. Williams, G. W. Willis
Programme Cover ... ... C. B. Gosden
Stage Manager's Team ... D. Ayshford, D. T. Batty, B. D. W. Blackie, A. N. Chalk, A. D. Cook, J. W. S. Kaminski, B. Lewis, D. G. Nebbitt, R. J. Orrow, G. E. Pearson.

Mr. J. E. Austin and Mr. A. Hodgkinson helped with the Production and Programme.

If we are to trust Marlowe and Shakespeare, the sixteenth century saw the Jew through a veil of suspicion, mingled with awe and fear, His was an alien, diabolic world, suffused with jewelled and incantatory magic. Marlowe's Barabbas is a gigantic, power-drunk miser, but Shakespeare's Jew is life-sized and human, although something of devilish and magical superstition clings about him still. Shylock's passionate and lonely dignity was movingly interpreted by James Wharton in Wandsworth Schoo's fine production of "The Merchant of Venice" which played last week to packed and enthusiastic audiences on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The drama group has a long sequence of successes behind it. Before the war, the tradition was a Shakespeare play every year, but since 1946, when activity recommenced, it has included modern and foreign plays among its productions. These days plays are chosen because they are suitable for boy actors, the only other criterion being quality. Shaw, Moliere and John Drinkwater have all been successfully produced in recent years, although the Shakespeare tradition has been by no means



neglected. Indeed, one comes back to Shakespeare with renewed zest after adventuring in other fields.

Until 1950 the group had to work with most inadequate resources: an improvised proscenium, insufficient lighting and tattered curtains were heavy handicaps against which the producers struggled gallantly and most successfully. In that year the old, hampering proscenium and shabby curtains were abandoned, and "Henry the Fourth, Part I," was produced on a boldly formalized platform, where the actors could move with a new freedom. Since then, by vigorous self-help, and with generous aid from official and unofficial sources, the group has acquired a new, handsome and permanent proscenium arch, the stage has been entirely refitted with gay modern curtains, and up-to-date and very flexible lighting arrangements have been installed. Improvisation is still necessary, but productions of a smoothness, efficiency and polish previously out of reach are now being presented by the very lively producing team of T. G. Benyon and E. Bacchus.

This year the proscenium curtains were not used. The play was presented on a projecting platform in a manner very faithful to the Elizabethan style, in Elizabethan costume, A large playing area was thus available, and was cleverly varied with ingenious steps and changes of level which made possible a rapidity of pace which never slackened. Excellent grouping of the beautifully dressed personages kept the eye constantly engaged, and the parallel plots were ingeniously underlined at times by what modern artists would call a "plastic echo," made possible by the great depth of the stage. The production was outstanding, even keeping previous successes in mind. Good and varied lighting, handsome costumes, and resourceful and witty production touches put it well above normal schoolboy standards, and it would be surpassed only by a professional company of the highest quality. "The Merchant" is not an easy play to do, with its multiplicity of plot, variety of tone and apparent lack of coherence—but here the many difficulties were made light of, and were dexterously overcome or cleverly concealed.

Nearly every member of the cast earned a mention or two, and there were at least half a dozen memorable performances. In the title role, Maurice Phelps, really one of the school's outstanding personalities, carried melancholy conviction in what must be one of the most colourless parts that Shakespeare ever wrote. Tony Salmon made a very handsome Bassanio. As in previous years, he spoke well and moved gracefully; one could well appreciate Portia's finding him a most acceptable suitor. That dusky beau, the Prince of Morocco, played by Duncan Livingstone, moved with a supple eastern grace, which made a small part memorable.

Richard King, with loud voice and uninhibited movement, was a lively Gratiano. Launcelot Gobbo (Reginald Hall), Old Gobbo (John Gooders) and the Prince of Arragon (G. W. C. Wort) clowned well and evoked many a hearty laugh from the entranced audience. Gerald Salmon was a feminine if somewhat buxom Jessica, and Francis Gorman made effective appearances as Tubal, Shylock's only friend In the ungrateful part of Balthasar, R. P. Middleton did much to help forward the smooth running of this complex play.

As Shylock, James Wharton had a strange power which was well sustained. He gave the exacting part dignity and passion and gave the lie to those who see Shylock as "a snuffling old-clo' man," to quote the opinion of Lewis Casson. His "I am content," put the seal on a performance of restrained and passionate intensity. John Sharp supplied Portia with large reserves of wit and charm, even if, at times, she appeared something of a shrew, and her roguish confidences to the audience were delightedly received. An excellent performance in the early part of the play rose to heights of real dramatic achievement in the court scene.

However, there was never any doubt that it was Patrick Cassidy as Nerissa who won the heart of every member of the audience. No more

winsome girl ever trod the boards or spoke more deliciously. His faultless rendering of "Tell me where is fancy bred" was a gem which your critic will remember for many a year.

Other parts were played by I. H. Simons, G. D. Wrench, J. P. Fox, A. J. Sawyer and D. T. Glayzer.

The music as usual, was delightful. Mr. Keyte, year after year, finds splendidly appropriate tunes. This year, in addition to the recorded music which was played in the intervals, there was some very fine singing off stage, accompanied by recorders and strings, of appropriate Elizabethan and Jacobean airs, so well played that they proved to be high-lights of an already excellent entertainment.

After the final curtain Tony Salmon, in a graceful little speech, presented the two devoted and gifted masters, Mr. T. G. Benyon and Mr. A. Bacchus, who were responsible for this magnificent production, one which the school will be hard put to it to equal in future years.

In his reply, Mr. Benyon spoke of Mr. Sam Cowan, who for so many years has been associated with the school drama. In pre-war days he worked with Dr. Jory, designing and painting much of the scenery, and doing a good deal of the make-up. It was he who got things going again after the return from evacuation. When Mr. Benyon came back from the Army in 1946 he joined Mr. Cowan. In 1948 Mr. Benyon and Mr. Bacchus took over the production, but Mr. Cowan continued to assist in production and to run the make-up department. This year, although he was forced by ill-health to give up active teaching, Mr. Cowan came up from Woking for each performance in order to give invaluable help with the make-up. Mr. Benyon emphasised that if the school could not hope to repay what it owed to Mr. Cowan, it could at least acknowledge the debt.

Mr. Benyon went on to announce the award of the G. C. Semmens Prize to Tony Salmon in recognition of his three sterling performances: Judith in "The Devil's Disciple," Joan in "St. Joan," and Bassanio in "The Merchant of Venice." The prize was instituted when Mr. Semmons was one of the school governors, but although he has since relinquished this office, he continues to award the prize annually.

Acknowledgements were made to all those who had helped to make the production a success.

'ROBBIE' It is with great regret that we say goodbye to Mr. Robertson, our groundsman, who has left us to take up a school keeper's job in N.E. London. 'Robbie' came to us two and a half years ago, and immediately made his presence felt by a striking improvement in the state of the ground and in the quality of the cricket pitches. In spite of the poor soil and the limited expenditure allowed him in view of the imminent building plans, our wickets were well up to most school standards, and he leaves what we hope will be lasting memorial in the run-up to the concrete net. We wish him the best of luck in his new post.

THE LEGEND OF ROBIN HOOD Is the story of Robin Hood to be believed? Did he and his companions really roam the countryside, and rob the rich in order to help the poor? Many towns have buildings and monuments, said to be connected with the outlaws, but despite all this, the most careful historical research has failed to prove whether the outlaws existed or not.

Who was Robin Hood? Legend says that he was the Earl of Huntingdon, but at the time of Robin Hood's life, records say that David of Scotland held that title. Another tale states that a Robin Hood served at King Edward II's court in Nottingham, and in the royal household expenses, a Robin Hode was mentioned during 1324.

As I have already stated, there are many buildings in existence, said to have been connected with Robin Hood. One of them is the Gatehouse

of Kirklees Nunnery, where he is said to have died. His grave is 650 yards away from the gatehouse. Robin is said to have married Maid Marion at Edwinstone Church, but other accounts claim that the couple married at Campsall in Yorkshire.

Yorkshire was often visited by the outlaws, when things became too dangerous in Nottingham. On the Yorkshire coast there is a village called Robin Hood's Bay, where Robin is said to have taught archery to Little John. Boynton, another Yorkshire village claims to have Little John's thigh bone, although his grave is in Derbyshire, and in 1780 some massive bones were dug up at the Derbyshire spot.

Among other monuments, said to be connected with Robin Hood, are numerous wells, trees, stone pillars and inns.

There are records of the death of an Earl of Huntingdon at Kirklees in the Middle Ages, but whether he was Robin Hood, nobody knows. Perhaps one day, this historical mystery might be solved. Meanwhile, however, the story is as mysterious and as intriguing as ever.

R. CARR.

THE BOROUGH ARMS AND REGALIA Most boys of Wandsworth School know that they wear on their breast pockets part of the Coat of Arms of Wandsworth. Few boys, however, realise what the various symbols mean.

The shield itself is divided into two distinct halves by a waved line which represents the Thames and the Wandle. The upper half of the shield is made up of alternate blue and gold squares. This represents the Arms of William de Warrene, who was created first Earl of Surrey by William Rufus. In the gold squares are tears, which are the tears that the French Huguenots dropped when they landed at Wandsworth in 1685. The lower half is black, not red as on the school badge, with five estoiles or stars on it. These five stars represent the five parishes of which the Borough is comprised, viz. Clapham, Putney, Streatham, Tooting, and Wandsworth.

The shield is surrounded by a white border containing eight red crosses. The border shows that Wandsworth is in the County of London and the red crosses or swords are part of the City's emblem.

This is all that is shown on the school badge, but this is not all of the Wandsworth Coat of Arms. Above the shield is a crest which depicts an ancient ship, probably one belonging to a tribe of sea raiders from the Continent called the Wendels. It is this tribe which has given its name to the Borough for Wandsworth was once called Wendlesworth. Underneath the whole Coat of Arms is the borough's motto: "We Serve."

The borough regalia is made up of two main objects, namely, the Mace and the Mayoral Chain.

The Mace is made of silver gilt except for the shaft which is made of a piece of wood from old Putney Bridge. At the head of the Mace there is the Borough Arms and at the other end ehere are those of Sir W. J. Lancaster, who gave the Mace to the Borough soon after it was formed.

The Mayoral Chain is of eighteen-carat gold and is made in the Renaissance style. It is made up of a series of gold links which bear shields for the names of each mayor and his year of office. The centre link has the initials of the first Mayor, John Lidiard, set in rubies and diamonds. The whole chain is worth approximately three thousand pounds.

This is not all the regalia. There are a lot of other gilt and silver cups and dishes which have great value.

C. SQUIRES.

ARCHERY Archery is said to be one of the most ancient of all methods of fighting. It is very remarkable that the shape and size of the modern bow is almost exactly the same as we find it

represented on some early Egyptian sculptures. When Edward III was on the throne the glory of the famous long-bow was at its peak and our country had gained much of its fame by it. During Edward's reign the battles of Cressy and Poitiers were won, with the aid of this bow. Another victory, due to the English archers, was at the battle of Agincourt, in year 1415, in the reign of Henry V. When the present Queen Elizabeth visited Scotland after her Coronation, she was met by the Royal Company of Edinburgh Bowmen, who formed her body-guard throughout her visit. This company was originally formed by James I. During his confinement in England, he was so struck by the spirit and gallantry of the English archers, that on returning to his own country he established this society which has served Royalty from then onwards.

The best bows are made of the wood of the yew tree, laburnam, acacia, or thorn. The wood should be free from any knots. Two pieces must be joined together, the back being of different wood from the front, and the grain reversed. To join the two pieces you must glue and then bind them together. The maximum length of the bow for a youth should be from four-and-a-half to five feet. The most finished bows have their ends tipped with horn to help hold the string.

Arrows can be made in deal, ash, etc. These are recommended as they are light-weight woods. The length of the arrows should be in proportion to the bow, so that if the bow is five feet the arrows must be about three feet long. The arrows must be perfectly straight for accuracy, and it is recommended to use the feathers of a grey goose as a flight. The feathers can be tied on with a piece of strong thread so that the lower portion of each is about half an inch from the end.

Targets are made of plaited straw bands wound round a centre, preferably of soft wood, and sewn or nailed together. Over this is stretched, and then nailed, some strong paper or canvas. On this is painted four, alternately coloured rings, all of which have the same centre and are set at equal distances away from each other. The centre is called the bull's eye and the object of the game is to hit the target in the middle.

Archery is said to be a sport that is dying out, but it is in my opinion that it ought to be encouraged. Besides being interesting it trains the eye and brain to calculate distances and I think that it would be a good idea to form an archery club in school, as the equipment for archery can be easily and cheaply made.

G. Douel.

KEEPING A TORTOISE Tortoises belong to the reptile group. At the mention of "Reptile" most people think of great slimy creatures but on the whole this is very wrong because reptiles are the cleanest of all animals, they have no smell, and they do not harbour fleas.

When a child buys a tortoise he usually finds it is very cheap, and because of this some children purchase a tortoise without knowing how to keep it and feed it. When you purchase a tortoise you have a choice of the Iberian tortoise, or the Terrapin. These tortoises are more commonly known as the land tortoise, and the water tortoise.

First, the land tortoise, which is the more common. Most people keep this tortoise in the garden which is a good thing especially if the garden has a lawn and the tortoise cannot get out. The food of the tortoise is cabbbage, lettuce, tomatoes, weeds and other greens. In the summer a tortoise may live on things it finds in the garden, but as winter approaches the tortoise must be fed. In the autumn the tortoise will bury itself in the garden for hibernation, unless it is put in a box of straw in a shed or greenhouse. If a tortoise is kept indoors it will not go to sleep. This is satisfactory unless the tortoise is kept in changing conditions. If a tortoise is treated thus he maintains a state of semi-torpidity from which he dies.

The Terrapin is a good pet to keep in a vivarium. It is about four inches long and it has a dark brown shell. Although most people keep them in a vivarium, the best place is in a garden pond with an island in the middle, but there must be a way to stop it getting out. The best food for Terrapins is scraps of meat, small fish and worms.

J. JUDGAY.

THE AMATEUR ASTRONOMER The amateur's most important belonging is his telescope, and even professional astronomers today would be almost lost without it. (We owe its invention to Hans Lippershey, a spectacle maker of Middleburgh in Holland, in circa 1607). The amateur is not as fortunate as a professional astronomer, having only, as a rule, a telescope, for even small astronomical telescopes are very expensive, even second-hand. The professional, on the other hand, has all the instruments he requires at the observatory.

The amateur has not been out-done by the professional however, for much important work has been carried out by them with very modest instruments indeed. All true amateurs start with small telescopes of the 3 inch category (diameter of upper lens). I have a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch glass, which I bought about three years ago.

As an amateur astronomer I watch the moon and stars at every opportunity. With my telescope I have seen four of Jupiter's twelve moons, craters on the moon, variable and double stars. I have also seen the third largest sun spot ever to be photographed, and the last two partial eclipses of the sun (as from England) on 1st September, 1951 and 25th February, 1952. The next one will be on 30th June, 1954. Perhaps my greatest thrill was when I recognised the constellation of Orion, for the first time, nearly five years ago. My latest feat is in seeing the "Great Nebula in Orion" which I can see as a faint patch of light through my telescope.

If the amateur is to discover anything he must be very patient and constant in his observing of the heavens on every possible, cloudless night. But he must have a telescope of at least a 4 inch aperture to do serviceable work in the wide field of astronomy. I shall have to wait a long time before I can ever have the chance of competing with some of the finest amateurs who have ever lived.

VICTOR HOLT.

THE SCHOOL FIELDS As we used to walk along Sutherland Grove on our way to school, we used to see the fresh green grass of our playing fields. But due to the progress of education and the lack of nearby vacant ground, our playing fields have succumbed to the builders, who have taken them over to transform them into the new Comprehensive School. The first things we now set our eyes upon are the rusty wire fencing and churned up rugby pitches. As we approach, we behold the mud and sunken wheel tracks on the fields and we can hear the drone of an excavator at work. We turn into the drive and see several huts grouped together, and a notice displayed over one of the doors, "Foreman." From these huts the men working on the site are controlled.

At present there are only two excavators on the field. One is a very large and powerful contraption, while the other is much smaller, yellow in colour. Only a small number of men are being employed while the initial work is in progress, but as the work continues, many more men will be taken on. It is fascinating to watch these machines, and one realises how much quicker the work progresses, than in the days before such machines were invented.

During school-days, boys are to be seen standing round the fencing, watching the operations, their heads moving up and down with the actions of the excavators. While lessons are in session it is distracting

to hear the engines of these machines, and the masters, I might tell you, pass bitter remarks (under their breath so as to keep them from the ears of their beloved pupils). Still! I suppose, in time to come, the fields will be transformed into a wonderful modern school.

When it rains, there is an awful mess around the place. The drive is transformed into a slippery, muddy pathway. At one end of the field, the farthest away from the school, a patch of green is still to be seen. This is the only piece of the field that is to be left to us, and the rugby posts have not yet been removed from this end, so they remind us of the time when the fields were well kept and attended to by the groundsman. We can only hope that when this new school is completed, it will give the pupils as much happiness as our present one has to the boys of today and in the past, so we wish it, "Good luck," for the future.

M SMITH.

THE DYNASTY OF ARICIA The science of Anthropology has unearthed many strange forms of kingship, but, perhaps the strangest of all is that which existed in Aricia in Italy, some three hundred years B.C.

If you had lived in ancient Aricia at this time, you might have seen a strange figure brooding on the shore of the lake which bordered the city. You would have seen this grim figure prowl during the day and on into the night, with a sword in his hand, and he would be peering warily in all directions, as if he were expecting the sudden attack of an enemy. For this man was the king and priest of Aricia, and the enemy who was seeking him out, would murder him to gain the kingship and priesthood in liis stead. Such was the rule of office—a candidate only succeeded to office by murdering the encumbent king, and then, he, in his turn, would wait, prowling round his throne, until a stronger, craftier candidate slayed him where he stood.

Year in and year out, in good and bad weather, the king had to keep watch, as a moment of uneasy slumber might well mean his death. Each winter night, when the sombre shadows of the trees lulled him to sleep, one can imagine him, trying, in a futile effort, to ward off the slumber that would mean death, as he paced, back and forth, near the surface of the lake, a king, whose more ambitious subjects wanted him dead, in order that they might reign in his stead.

Such was the dynasty of ancient Aricia.

A. C. SAVAGE.

FLYING SAUCERS Some of us may be mystified by these objects called flying saucers which have been reported time and time again to have been flying at incredible speed about fifty miles above the Earth. In fact, many of us may think that we are being spied on for an invasion by visitors from space.

The American Air Force discussing this possibility stated that such a civilization might observe that on Earth we have atomic bombs and are fast developing rockets. In view of this they would be alarmed and we should therefore expect at this time above all to behold such visitations.

Intelligent life on Mars is possible but is completely unproven. On the other hand the possibility of such life on Venus is not considered unreasonable by astronomers.

Possibilities of these mysterious objects being foreign aircraft have also been considered by the A.A.F. but observations based on nuclear power plant research, say that it is highly improbable that engines small enough to have powered the saucers exist on Earth.

Some people may jeer at these individuals who say that they have seen a flying saucer, but let me tell them, that it will never be possible to prove that any person did not see a space ship, an enemy missile or some other object.

C. G. CHRISTODOULOU.

THE CASE OF RUSSIAN HENRY

(A spine-chilling saga of adventure in the far reaches of outer space.)

Ace Macoy, ace pilot of the Interplanetary Space Patrol, was speeding to the distant planet of Pluto in pursuit of Russian Henry, the proprietor of a coffee stall in Tottenham Court Road. Eight days had passed now and Ace was feeling a little peckish. So, turning left at the third star, he pulled up at "Nick's" a cafe run by Nickolova Enrico Magnano Caruso, a Scotsman of Welsh parentage. But, to the story.

Ace had four pints of rum and twenty-five Chippallata sandwiches "all on" and then settled down to a square meal. Meanwhile, what of Russian Henry? Had Ace only known, Russian Henry was busy with the uranium-powered, cosmic-ray-decompositor generators of Ace's ship. Five minutes later the foul deed was done and Russian Henry stole away into the night. Soon Ace came out to resume his search for Russian Henry. The generators roared into life and, amidst dense clouds of smog from the exhausts, Ace pushed the ship down to the runway. After a last minute check-up, Ace was off once more into space.

But suddenly there was a crash as the port wing dropped off. Then the starboard wing dropped off and Ace suspected something was wrong. Soon Ace was streaking towards a distant planet. Suddenly, with a crash which shook the ship from top to bottom, Ace reached terra firma.

Before he stepped out to explore the planet, Ace put on his anti-cosmic ray suit for protection against mosquitoes. Ten minutes later Ace was on top of some surrounding land, studying the countryside. Suddenly, from not far away, came the spine-chilling roar of a gigantic Ptereodiadactylic, a member of the cat family. Soon Ace was in deadly danger as the Ptereodiadactylic's mouth closed over his head. The fight lasted for four days and nights, but finally, Ace conquered the beast. Then he stopped to look at his wounds, only four broken ribs, a broken collarbone, one leg broken at the knee and the other at the hip, his left arm mangled beyond recognition and his right arm hanging limply at his side. Not much wrong with him. He climbed back into the ship and prepared a mug of Vitamin 7 tablets dissolved in Sulphuric Acid. This acid was used as it was the only one able to dissolve the tablets. Ace then decided it was time to return to Earth and soon he was speeding homewards. When he arrived he found that Russian Henry had been captured. He was to come before the magistrates the following week for being drunk and disorderly.

E. J. Cooper.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS While working in our loft during the cold spell I found a newspaper dated Tuesday, July 8th, 1913. The price of it was a halfpenny.

The topical news of the time was about Sylvia Pankhurst, the leader Suffragette, who had been ordered to keep the peace; in default she would be imprisoned for three months, but answered that she would rather hunger-strike than keep the peace.

The weather at the time was very cold for July, the temperature being 60 degrees in the shade and was the coldest July 8th since 1888.

The advertisements were also very interesting, some of the items were: Cigarettes—50 for a 1/-; Gents suits—27/6 each; and a dozen bottles of Champagne for 46/-.

You could have board and lodgings in Hastings for 22/- a week.

Among the Situations Vacant was a Junior Male Shorthand Typist wanted, for 16/- per week.

John Cormack.

THE POLICEMAN

Sir Robert Peel, all know the name,
He had so many hobbies:
But best of all, as I recall
He invented British bobbies.
In early years, they wore top hats,
But that would never do;
Cried Peel, "I'll have to try to make
A helmet-hat for you."
He gave them all big boots,
He said, "You must not fall,
You'll wear them all the time
To hold up legs of law."
And here's the copper of today,
You see him on his beat.
He's a help to all, and overall,
He still has his big feet.

P. ROBERTS.

LIMERICKS

There was a tall prefect named Glayzer,
Who cut himself with a razor,
The razor was sharp.
So he now plays a harp
And wears a white winged blazer.

J. DAVIES.

Whilst skimming along in a glider,
A young woman saw a huge spider.
She shouted in fear,
And omitted to steer.
Her squashed remains made her much wider.

G. PEARSON.

MY BUTCHER'S ROUND

When Saturday morning comes around,
I climb out of my bed
With great reluctance, whilst my feet
Slowly move like lead.
I have to do my butcher's round
And go round all the roads,
To make sure all the customers
Get meat at their abodes.
I start at 16, West Hill Road,
Then on to number eight,
From thence I go to Cromer Court
And enter at the gate.
Down the hill to Girdwood Road
To number fifty-three,
Up the hill to Skeena Hill.
(This is no life for me.)
Puffing I deliver meat
To rows and rows of homes.
(Phew, I think its difficult
To try to think up poems!)
Wimbledon Park Road comes next,
(Number eighty-one).
She pays her money at the door.
On to 1—2—1.
Back for yet another load

Hurriedly I dash,
On the people's knockers
Heartily I bash.
On next to Rusholme Street,
Next to Holmbush Road,
All the time I'm lessening
My almighty load.
Finally, I finish,
Totter, then, away,
Trying to forget such things
As coming Saturdays.

G. PEARSON.

SONNET TO THE WANDSWORTH COLT XV

Shall I compare them to the All Blacks team?
They are more youthful if less spoiled by fame,
Do Scott and Antell differ, or just seem
To be identical except in name?
Would Jarden far outpace the speedy Cross,
Could Nebbitt's skill defeat the Maori grace
Of forward moves designed by them to toss
The "lighter" Barrable upon his face
Into the mud? Ah! Who can tell what fate
Awaits the muddied oaf who dares to hold
A Nebbett—Hazard move impelled by hate,
Of foes who do not wear the red and gold?
I only know that those who call me fool
Should not just stand and stare, but cheer the school.

J. W. KAMINSKI.

DYING FALL

The trade of Tyre is done
No wind encourages a sail
Where hesitating waves caress
The candid sand of Crete.
Persephone has passed below,
The slender mignonette
Falls into deep shadow.
Kings walk out to try
Power on pyre and beach,
Agammemmon, Theseus, are gone,
And Icarus falls sick
Under the toiling sun.
While Ixion and Ariadne spin
A great winged lion
Impatiently must scent
Sea-lavender and wait.

ALASDAIR ASTON.

AVIATION OFFERS MORE OPPORTUNITIES Vigour and initiative coupled with a high standard of ability will get a man further in the world of civil aviation in half the time it takes to get on in other professions. If you don't believe it, look around this region and see the number of young men who are today holding appointments comparable to those held by men twice their age in other professions.

A very good instance of the recognition that younger men are receiving in the civil aviation sphere occurred this week when the office of the Director General of Civil Aviation for this Region announced the appointment of 31-year-old Ron Milton as an Assistant Director of Civil Aviation in charge of the Sarawak and Brunie areas.

Ron's job is going to be the establishment of a separate Department for Sarawak and Brunie away from the Director of Public Works who administrates the Department, and the tremendous task of developing an internal service throughout Sarawak and Brunie that will serve all possible points and replace the present necessity of having to travel almost everywhere by boat. It may be possible to expand the present "Rapide" service now serving the north when adequate landing facilities are founded in other parts of the two states.

Eager and intent on tackling this problem of developing an internal system that will serve all, Ron is sure that the traffic and utility potential is more than just promising and its absolute necessity is obvious.

I am sure that Ron has the good wishes of all who knew him during his two terms of appointment as Airport manager at Kallang and Operations Officer for the Federation*. With his wife and young daughter, Ron leaves for Kuching on the 26th of September. Here's wishing him every possible success in the future.

* Federation of Malay States.

(*From John Coombers Kellang Diary, Singapore.*)

HOUSE NOTES

CROMWELL The sudden loss of Mr. Culverwell only a few days previous to writing these notes, although greatly felt by the whole School, was undoubtedly felt even more by those in his own House. In past few days the tone of everyday activity has been very much subdued which could only be a direct result of his enormous popularity throughout the school. His quiet homely personality put all who met him at their ease. Perhaps the secret of his success was the fact that, as was said in a letter to his relatives expressing the sympathy of one of his forms, "he seemed to like everyone."

In the last notes we were uncertain as to the fate of the rugger shield. After a decision of the games committee, it is now in our possession.

The final inter-house table-tennis match between Cromwell and Gibbon finished in a draw, which was also the result of the whole competition.

At this time of year our thoughts are turned to the annual Eisteddfod. This year we hope to improve on the performance of the last Eisteddfod, when we had occasion to be placed fourth. Our hopes of improvement in this sphere are stimulated somewhat by the recent achievement in the diligence award when the House came first and our "lame duck" Cromwell C hurried to fifth place.

R.G.H. D.J.L.

GIBBON The keen enthusiasm shown in Gibbon House since the last edition of the Link has borne fruitful results.

On the sporting field, we managed to obtain second place in the inter-house Rugby competition, largely due to the senior team, who did not lose a match, winning two games and drawing one. The team as a whole played very well with the captain, Phelps, and Pierce giving exceedingly fine performances. The juniors started well by winning their first game, but unfortunately drew their next, and lost the third.

We drew for first place with Cromwell in the table-tennis, the team being Eastwood, Rose, Lightfoot and Smith, who should be congratulated on winning all his games.

Two of the six boys representing the school in cross-country are members of Gibbon House. They are Cuffley and Rye. We also have two representatives in the school chess team, namely Eastwood and Douel.

At the time of printing we are preparing for the Eisteddfod, and with enough effort Gibbon have every hope of being able to win the shield for the third consecutive time. Colin Smith, our co-ordinator is

working very enthusiastically and is sure to see that Gibbon gives of its best. Our main hopes, of course, are on the drama, which we usually win, and King, who is in charge, is certain to produce something worthy of the talents of Gibbon House.

Pleasing results for a term's work. Keep it up Gibbon!

R. Rose.

MORLEY Inter-house activity is always at its lowest ebb during the first half of the Spring Term. The Rugby matches have been played off and the house seems, in general, to be more concerned with preparations for a fierce struggle for the Eisteddfod Trophy, rather than with active competition for less important trophies.

However, despite this temporary slackening of tension, one inter-house competition has been decided and two others are still in process of completion. In spite of all our efforts, our table-tennis team lost all three matches: to Cromwell (8-2), to Gibbon (8-2), and to Pitt (7-3). Perhaps next year we will have better luck.

We got off to a good start in the inter-house Chess competition by beating Pitt by three boards to one, and we should do well in our other games as we have quite a strong team. We also started well in the Fives competition, again beating Pitt, by 70 points to 42.

For further successes we must look to the future. In the sporting field we have cricket, athletics and swimming and the completion of the Fives competition. In the purely academic field we are concerned with that the very important trophy, the Diligence Shield. We have won this before and we can, with only a little more effort from everybody in the House win it for Morley again.

Finally, by the time thes notes are published, the Eisteddfod will have been decided and so we can only affirm that whatever else happens, Morley House will acquit itself honourably.

C.B.G. J.W.B.

PITT Towards the end of the Christmas term the School senior and junior cross-country runs took place. Although we came third in the final placings, in the individual results we had the remarkable success of having the winners of both the senior and junior cross-country runs in our house. R. W. Hancock was first for the juniors and A. G. Butler, captain of the school cross-country team, was first for the seniors. They are both to be congratulated on their fine performances.

In the inter-house Fives championship we were beaten by Morley, but nevertheless, have every chance to beat the two other houses which we have yet to play.

In the table-tennis championship we came third, as we did in the rugby championship.

Eisteddfod preparations are well under way. At a House meeting early this term the following people were elected: D. T. King and S. F. Weber for Music, M. K. Stuart for Speech, I. H. Simons for Drama, and Winter as House Co-ordinator.

We have every hope of winning the Drama Cup this year; the play chosen is "As you like it," by Shakespeare, and about fifteen members of the House are connected with it. The House Speech Choir led by Stuart is progressing favourably as is the singing choir led by King.

Diligence is not quite up to the high standard which Pitt House reached a few years ago. However, if everyone tries a little harder, we shall not have much difficulty in regaining the Diligence Shield.

I.H.S.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

FENCING CLUB After a year's lull, during Mr. Levy's absence, the Fencing club is now getting back to normal. We meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and take in boys from the second form and above. At the present we are in the process of building up new teams, as most of our old members have left school. The Parents' Association helps us greatly in this, by their kindness in granting us a bursary for professional tuition each year. This year's bursary went to K. Kreuchen. We have six senior fencers at present, Eastman (Captain), Parkhurst (Vice-captain), Squires (Hon. Secretary), Telford, Kreuchen and Warren, and intend to hold a school foil championship at the beginning of April. Up to the time of writing we have had one match, against King's College School, Wimbledon. It was drawn 8 bouts each and we look forward to the return match. Next year we hope to organize a House Fencing Championship, but if this is to happen we need more experienced fencers.

RAILWAY CLUB The Railway Club, resuming after the summer holidays, has had a total of seven meetings. The three before Christmas constituted a description of the run between London and Glasgow on the Royal Scot and the Scottish Region line from Glasgow to Fort William, by J. Tickner, and a further instalment of the most interesting series 'Railway Curiosities' by Mr. Bacchus. Once again we were unlucky in receiving only one of the three British Railways films we applied for. This was entitled 'Main Line Diesel' and described clearly the various stages in the building of the ex-Midland Region diesel No. 10000. At the end of the film a few views of the locomotive were given while in service on the St. Pancras main line. Number 10000 and its twin have now been transferred to the Southern Region.

Since Christmas the club has so far met four times. The programme for the first meeting took the form of a talk by Mr. Bacchus, entitled 'Memories of the Kent and East Sussex,' a branch line now closed. This was followed by a talk by Gant on his recent visit to the Isle of Axholme Joint Goods Line.

At the next meeting Homewood gave two excellent talks on the 'Grimsby and Immingham' and 'The Wimbledon—West Croydon' branch lines. These talks were illustrated with a series of photographs to show different sections of the lines.

We succeeded this term in obtaining the film strip of the Tal-y-llyn railway, and Mr. Bacchus, who is a member of the preservation society, gave a very enlightening talk on the line, explaining the difficulties overcome by the members.

At the last meeting we borrowed a London Transport film strip which showed the history of the Underground.

The Club at the present consists mainly of members with interests in antiquarian branch lines and anybody with particular interests in modern railways will be very welcome.

J.R.T.

RUGBY

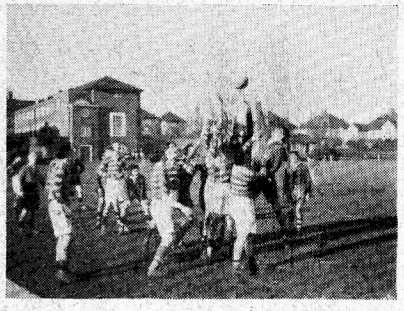
FIRST XV

Although the general standard of play of the First XV has not been as inspiring as in previous seasons, the team can, on the whole, be well satisfied with their perfomances. Although they have lost to teams whom they should have defeated with ease, they have also gained some really remarkable victories.

Late in the autumn term they had a long series of successes and defeated such strong rugby schools as Bec, Raynes Park, St. Olaves, and

Upper Latymer. However, perhaps their two most praiseworthy performances were those against Harrow County School, and the Old Wandsworthians. In the former game, playing with new confidence, and with real team spirit, they defeated one of the finest school teams in London, while against the Old Boys, they played really first-class rugby to gain a well earned victory against a team which they have not beaten for many years.

At the beginning of the Spring term, and on the day of the Welsh International match at Twickenham, we entertained a team from Swansea Grammar School. The School lost by the narrow margin of six points to three, but nevertheless, it was a thoroughly enjoyable morning's sport. However, it was a day that will be remembered not so much because



A line-out in the Swansea match.

of the match itself, but rather because it was the last time any sporting event was to take place on the school fields. A few days later the rugby posts had been dismantled, and our new comprehensive school was under construction

The season finished with a match against Selhurst, and it is pleasing to note that the School won quite comfortably by 22 points to nil. As this report goes to press however, the team is preparing for the Surrey Seven-a-side Competition, and we have high expectations of surpassing the very good performance we put up last year.

Perhaps the most improved player in the school side is J. B. Smith. He had a trial for the Surrey Schools XV, and must be specially congratulated on gaining his rugby colours in his first year in the first team. His running, his tackling, and his handling have been quite beyond criticism. The school must also congratulate D. Nye upon his praiseworthy performances in the very responsible position of hooker. His two props also, Williams and Earle have improved consistently throughout the season, and are showing that fighting spirit which characterises the play of good rugby forwards.

J. Wharton who has been playing at wing-forward now for at least two seasons, is one of the School's most experienced players. His tackling has been quite devastating, and his open play has improved immensely.

Among the other members of the team P. Pierce at scrum half, Watts at wing forward, and Gooders and Sjyzckowski at wing three-quarter, must receive special praise. They have given the school their services throughout the season, and have played consistently well.

Finally, the School must join in thanking our Vice-Captain and Secretary, D. Glayzer, whose hard work both on and off the field has been of great value to the School's Rugby as a whole.

Also I feel that D. Granfield, by far the most versatile player in the School team, must receive praise both for his accurate place kicking, and for his almost uncanny anticipation for a dangerous opening.

On the whole it has been a commendable season, and with our youthful team we can look forward to a successful time next year.

M.A.P.

SECOND XV

Looking back over the past season I think the Second XV can be reasonably satisfied with their achievements. Although the results may not leave a striking impression on the mind, won 8, lost 4, drawn 0, it has been the best season since the war and every match has been hard fought by a team in which the spirit was always good. The criticism which could best be levelled against the team is that it was unfit and that by the end of the second half it was usually tiring.

During the second half of the year we have only played one match, all others having been cancelled for many and various reasons, and this against St. Olaves to whom we lost 6—3.

The team as a whole should be congratulated, but those deserving special mention include Stuart, Watts and particularly Eastwood, who for most of the season has been a safe and reliable full back.

D.J.L.

COLTS

Captain: D. G. Nebbett. Vice-Captain: A. Hazard.

Hon. Secretary: G. R. Salmon.

The successes of the Colt team cannot be assessed very well, as they have only played four matches since the last edition of "The Link," owing to the condition of the pitch after the bad weather we have been having.

Matches Played:

v. Chiswick (last term): Lost, 19—6.
v. St. Olaves: Won, 8—0.
v. Tiffin: Lost 8—6.
v. Chiswick (this term): Won, 10—6.

Owing to the limited amount of playing, no one can really be singled out for outstanding playing, but we congratulate Nebbett, the Captain, on his play. In the last match against Chiswick he scored 7 of the 10 points (1 try, 2 conver.).

We congratulate R. Nebbett on being selected to play for the London Schools Rugby team.

G. SALMON.

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION A short review of the Association activities for the past term as far as the date of going to press will allow and a reminder of important dates for the coming term constitute the notes for this issue.

Your Social Committee in co-operation with the Old Boys Association ran a successful Whist Drive on December 5th last, which attracted 80 members. We did anticipate a larger response in view of the publicity distributed, but the evening was socially most enjoyable, well organised and with good prizes.

On February 13th, we repeated the event hoping for better results but I regret that on this occasion we did not receive the same support as on the previous event. We are endeavouring to build up a regular series of Whist Drives, and I would like to remind all members that these are jolly informal affairs and are thoroughly enjoyable, why not come along yourself on the next occasion? I am sure you will not be disappointed.

The main item of the Summer Term is the A.G.M. on Friday, May 21st. The election of a new Parents' Council together with the report of the year's activities and the presentation of Accounts and Balance Sheet are all matters of vital importance, and should attract a large and keen audience, it is your opportunity to comment on the year's work, to offer suggestions or criticisms, all these together with your guidance as to our future arrangements will be welcomed. The business meeting will be followed by a break for refreshments and we hope to complete the evening with an informal programme. Will you please note the date and reserve this evening, we hope to welcome a large number of new members.

I am unable this year to announce the Summer Fête owing to the vast alterations now going forward with the School, but we are hoping to be able to hold our Annual Parents' and Boys Cricket Match and the proposed date is Saturday, July 17th. We had a splendid response from the fathers last year, may I express the hope that all who can, will again come along and support the Parents' Team.

Your new Parents' Council, as soon as elected, will be meeting to consider plans for our future activities. May I yet again rely on the active co-operation of all parents in making these activities a success. All dates are regularly listed at the end of the Terminal letter and notices are issued to your boys to bring home, you should make sure of receiving your copy. I am sure that all members will have learnt with deep regret the tragic death of Mr. Culyerwell, he will be greatly missed by the School and we join with them in our sincere sympathy with the bereaved.

PIANO RECITAL, MAY 10th A piano recital is to be given on Monday, May 10th, at 7.30 p.m. in the School Hall by S. F. Weber (U VI).

The programme will include works by Bach, Mozart, Chopin and Brahms, also a first performance of Sonata No. 1 by S. F. Weber.

Admission is free, and all those interested are cordially invited to come.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO "THE LINK." "The Link" is published three times a year and can be obtained from the Treasurer, "The Link," Wandsworth School, Sutherland Grove, S.W.18, for 1/6d. per copy, or 4/- per annum (three issues) post free.

THE GAME OF CHESS. The other day my brother, who is the school chess captain, asked me to name six juniors good enough to play chess against Tiffins Grammar School, who usually turn out a good team. I started to name some but I could reach four only. Eventually my brother had to tell Tiffins that we could make eight seniors and four juniors but not six of each. We had scraped together four juniors but still we lost the match. We have a number of juniors with the basic idea but that is about all. I am writing this for the benefit of those and others who may be interested in the hope that we might get some newcomers to the game.

Each player starts off with eight pieces and eight pawns. The pieces are, from left to right, "Rook" (or "Castle"), "Knight," "Bishop," "Queen," "King," "Bishop," "Knight," and "Rook." The "Rook" goes up, down or sideways, but not diagonally, as many squares as it likes. The "Knight" goes two forward and one to the side or one forward and two to side. The "Bishop" moves as many squares as it likes diagonally. The "Queen" moves as many squares as it likes in any direction and the "King" moves only one square in any direction. The "Pawns" which are lined up in front of the pieces move one square forward at once except their first move when they can, if they wish, go two squares. "Pawns" take on the diagonal.

The board has sixty-four squares on it, (8 x 8). If a white "Pawn" gets to black's back rank or a black "Pawn" gets to white's back rank, the "Pawn" is taken off and any piece except, of course, the "King" can be brought on instead. The "Queen," which is the most valuable piece, is usually brought on. Both "Bishops" must be on different colours all through the game. Always remember that a white square must go in the right-hand corner for it is most annoying to get half way through a game and then find you have got the board the wrong way round.

The basic idea is to trap your opponent's "King." If it is possible to take the opponent's "King" you say "Check." When this happens your opponent must do one of three things. He can simply move his "King" out of the way or block with another piece, so that the square the "King" is on is no longer being attacked. Thirdly, he can take the attacking piece. If he cannot do any of these it is "Checkmate."

Beginners may be put off by the names of openings and if one was told that his opponent was playing the "Danish Gambit" he would be rather put off. But really he need not worry for if he gets all of his pieces into good squares and does not move a piece twice until he has all his pieces out or if a piece is being attacked he is quite safe. It is best not to bring the "Queen" out too early.

There are a few things in chess that are harder to grasp than others but they only go to make the game more interesting. One of these is castling and another "en passant" which means "in passing." Altogether it is a very interesting game and those who learn how to play do not regret it. The interesting part of it is that you rarely get the same game twice. Many pleasant hours can be spent playing this game. Unlike others games you need a certain amount of thought as well as luck. If you juniors want to know more about the game you are welcome at "Chess Club."

(Crowded out of the last issue.—Ed.)