THE PYRAMID

MAGAZINE OF WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

(BUILDING BRANCH)

Summer 1955 No. 6

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MR. MAKIN'S NOTES

The Autumn term opened with 360 on the School roll and in the Sixth Form, both much the same as the previous year. The constitution, however, was not the same, the Lower School consisting of three streams at 13+ (one recruited entirely from the Grammar School), one stream at 12+ and one at 11+. Next September, the pattern will again be different, and will consist of three Fourth Forms (one peripatetic), three Third Forms (only one recruited from outside at 13+), one Second Form and two First Forms (recruited from the Primary Schools at 11+) in addition to the usual Fifth and Sixth Forms. This will enable the School to be ready to dovetail into the new comprehensive set-up in September, 1956, when we shall all be under the same roof.

The shell of the new building in Sutherland Grove is now nearing completion, work being held up during the winter months by long spells of bad weather. Judging by the number of coloured faces seen regularly on the site, the Commonwealth has undoubtedly contributed, at the recognised rates of pay, to its erection.

The long winter was responsible for more sickness than usual among both Staff and boys. Mr. Sexton died suddenly on his way to school one morning, whilst Mr. Chambers is still absent, haing been away for nearly four months. He is, fortunately, slowly but surely recovering and we hope to have him back with us before these notes appear in print.

Mr. Sexton's untimely death came as a great shock. He was a capable and experienced teacher, a man of undoubted skill and scholarship in his subject, one who never spared his energies on behalf of or despaired of his pupils, and a loyal, willing, conscientious colleague. We miss him very much.

Three other members of the Staff will be leaving this term : Mr. Toynton, who is going to the Technical College, Barnstaple; Mr. Knibbs, who has been appointed head of the Geography department at the Woodberry Downs Comprehensive School, N., and Mr. Buxton, who joins the staff at the Technical College, Great Yarmouth. An appreciation of their services appears elsewhere in this issue.

There have been two additions to the Staff since Christmas : Mr. J. S. Colliver, who is deputising for Mr. Chambers, and Mr. E. Crawford, who is teaching mathematics. They are both making their presence felt although in somewhat different ways.

Next term, we welcome Mr. F. D. Metcalfe, who is replacing Mr. Knibbs as Geography Master, and Mr. D. J. Smith, who will teach Mathematics and Physics. Mr. Buxton's successor has not yet been appointed, but Mr. Crawford will take over Mr. Toynton's work.

We said goodbye to Mrs. Lake, the Cook, at Christmas, who was retiring after long service with the Council. She was very popular with both Staff and boys and, in addition to preparing good meals, always had a friendly smile for everyone, including even late-comers to meals. Mrs. Arnold, the new Cook, is proving a worthy successor.

Speech Day was held at the Grammar School on Friday, 26th November, and Mr. Adams, a respected member of our Governing body, a builder himself and well-known in building circles, presented the prizes and made the oration, which latter contained much good advice to the boys, advice based on a lifetime's experience in the trade, which I trust those present will remember and profit by.

The Oxford G.C.E. examination results were the best ever. Twenty-eight boys took the examination with an average of nearly five subjects per boy, and every boy received a certificate. We had the usual 100% passes in Art and Technical Drawing respectively. I must congratulate Topliffe on passing in nine subjects, four of them above the unofficially recognised distinction level.

The Christmas concert was as entertaining as ever and perhaps better prepared. The Parents Association again supplied ice-cream during the interval, thereby cooling the stomachs but warming the hearts of the recipients.

I must congratulate Lydiate on the excellence of his running this year. He has broken several records and his time for the mile (4 minutes 33 seconds) is very good for a boy of 16. Under Mr. Clark's watchful eye he has steadily improved and much of his success has been due to his physical fitness and grit.

I have to record the visit of five African teachers, one Malayan and one from Mauritius on the 7th December. They showed great interest in the work of the School and asked many questions. Miss Banks-Smith visited the School on the 19th October and spoke on "Libraries and how to use them." Mr. Pearce, of the London Master Builders Association, spoke on "Craftwork in the Building Industry" on the 23rd May, and Peter Mountain and Angela Dale gave a violin/piano recital on the 14th June. The talks were very informative and the recital instructive and entertaining.

The Parents Association continues to flourish, still in the able hands of the Secretary, Mrs. Brown, who has been in office since it was founded, and the President, Mr. Gooding, who has not been too well since Christmas. We trust that he will soon regain his previous fitness.

Mr. Shire has also been in hospital, but is now back at his duties.

The usual functions have been held, meetings, socials, dances and whist drives, all as successful as ever. The summer innovation of a trip to the seaside was perhaps the best of all, about a hundred parents and boys attending on the finest day of the year. It was unfortunate that the cricket match against the School had to be cancelled on account of the rain. The view from the windows of the pavilion of the steady downpour and the gulls hopefully waiting and searching for food on the pitch was certainly depressing. A summer outing has again been arranged, this time to Hastings, on Sunday, 18th September, and it is hoped that as many parents as possible will attend.

SPEECH DAY AND PRESENTATIONS

This annual function was held in the Grammar School, Sutherland-grove, Southfields. There was also, at the back of the hall, an exhibition of the work done by the boys in technical drawing, art and the four building crafts.

D. Mellish, head prefect, gave a survey of athletic activities, speaking of the School's successes in football, athletics, cross-country, swimming and cricket, and Roy Foot winning the 9-st. 10-lb. London boxing championship.

P. Kelly, the second prefect, spoke on social activities, dealing with the numerous societies and clubs which were a feature of the life of the School; also of the trips, both at home and abroad, organised by various members of the Staff.

Comprehensive School

Mr. H. Raymond King spoke on the new comprehensive school to be opened in September, 1956, which was now in the course of erection. He referred to the intake and set-up of the new school, and the advantages and possibilities of comprehensive schools in general.

Mr. J. Makin spoke on the work of the School. He prefaced his report with a reference to the teaching of instrumental music in the School.

Mr. Makin said that the Oxford G.C.E. results had been the best ever, 28 boys taking the examination with an average of between four and five subjects per boy, and every boy gaining a certificate. F. Topliffe had broken the record by taking and passing in nine subjects, three above the recognised distinction level; C. Burnett and F. Partridge had each passed in seven.

100 Per Cent. Success

Again there had been 100 per cent. successes in art and technical drawing respectively, eight boys gaining very high marks in the latter subject. He went on to say that although examination results were important and in some ways a useful yardstick, the chief aim of the School was to give every boy a sound, general, practical education centred round building as the spur to effort. There was no doubt, however, that the boys were getting at the same time a valuable introduction to the building trade and most of them went into the trade on leaving school.

Mr. Makin then gave details of leavers, both normal and premature, the latter showing distinct improvement on last year's figures. More boys stayed to complete the course and many of the premature leavers became apprenticed to engineering, farming, or became tradesmen in the Services.

He then spoke about the old boys and the prosperity and good work of the Parents Association and concluded with a tribute to the Staff.

Opportunities for Education

Mr. H. J. Adams, chairman of the Governors of the Brixton School of Building, presented the prizes, trophies and certificates, congratulated the prize-winners and encouraged those less fortunate; commented on the opportunities for education now as compared with those when he was a boy; and advised boys to make the most of these chances and continue their education at the evening school on becoming apprenticed.

He told them to work honestly and, above all, to be true to themselves.

Votes of thanks to Mr. Adams were proposed by Mr. R. G. Norman, and to Lt.-Col. G. L. Matthews, chairman, by Professor D. Tarrant.

Prize List

School Captain's Prize (presented by the Chairman of the Governors): L. Hancock.

Vice-Captain's Prize (presented by the School): D. Cobb.

Public Examinations (Oxford G.C.E.): F. Topliffe, A. Partridge, C. Burnett.

Prizes for Merit: F. Topliffe, S. Greenwood, B. Cox, R. Schadendorf, A. Lendon, M. Gray, R. McDonough, R. Flashman, G. Thomas, A. Wright and A. Shearwood.

Prizes for Diligence: M. Morrell, D. Wilkins, D. A. Jones, D. Watkins, B. Pearce, J. Morgan, R. McDonough, A. Simmonds, L. Thatcher, M. Carr and M. O'Hara.

General Subjects: English, F. Topliffe; History and History of Architecture, A. Partridge; Geography, L. Hancock; Mathematics, A. Partridge; Physics, A. Partridge; Aeronautics, G. Bennett; Art, N. Leach.

Technical Subjects: Practical Geometry, R. Cheesman; Building Drawing, M. Morrell; Surveying, A. Partridge.

Craft Practice: Brickwork, D. Miller and M. O'Hara; Carpentry and Joinery, B. Vigar and R. Sallis; Painting and Decorating, D. Watkins and B. Preston; Plumbing, G. Casey and R. Cripps.

Music Prize: R. Gache.

Sportsman Prize: D. Cobb.

Certificates (Oxford G.C.E. Examination): G. Bennett, J. Bowley, M. Briggs, G. Bullen, C. Burnett, M. Carver, R. Cheesman, D. Cobb, B. Collins, B. Cox, B. Frost, L. Hancock, D. Hammond, A. Jones, P. Larkum, N. Leach, R. Loftus, A. Lucas, M. Morrell, A. Partridge, B. Presland, R. Sallis, J. Staits, P. Stow, F. Topliffe, B. Vigar, D. Watkins and D. Wilkins.

Winners of Trophies

Diligence (Parents' Trophy): Gainsborough.

Football (Senior): Gainsborough; (Junior): Scott.

Boxing ("Col. Croft" Shield): Scott.

Athletics (School Cup): Scott.

Cross-country ("Col. Matthews" Shield): Senior, Scott; Junior, Smeaton.

Cricket ("Chalk" Cup): Scott and Gainsborough.

Swimming ("Whitlock" Shield): Smeaton.

Colours Certificates

Boxing: Full, R. Foot; Junior, A. Smith.

Cross-country (Full): D. A. Cobb, A. Lydiate, L. Silva; Half: D. Mellish and D. Swainson.

Cricket (Full): A. Butcher and L. Hancock; Half: M. Flynn; Junior: R. Dobson, C. Payne and D. Leggett.

Athletics (Full): D. A. Cobb, H. Lydiate and R. Cheesman; Half: D. Mellish; Junior: C. Payne.

Football (Full): J. Pheysey, J. Brock, G. Goldsmith, J. Powell and M. Flynn; Half: W. Field; Junior: D. Dobson, D. Leggett and A. Smith.

Swimming (Full): M. Bowling and P. Stow; Half: J. Wynne and R. Starey; Junior: Alden, J. Davies, C. Briault and A. Smith.

EXHIBITION

The Exhibition was held on Monday, 4th April, and the attendance of parents and friends again more than justified its continuance. As usual, the workshops were attractive and displayed many examples of builders' work. Visitors were able to see boys busy at work and expressed commendation of their skill.

It was also good to see the usual number of Old Boys present and listen to their comparisons with the exhibits of previous years, especially their own; usually of outstanding excellence !

There were the usual fascinating examples of draughtsmanship in Studio One; others not quite so good in Studio Two, tailing off through Studio Three into Studio Four, where the work of the new boys was on view. Not that the work in Studios 3 and 4 was poor. Far from it ! It was not coloured and comparatively simple but it was accurate and well-drawn.

In the Geography Room, in addition to such projects as "Houses of the World" and "India," there was an excellent pictorial survey of the Wandle Valley. Samples of many of the manufactures were on view together with the raw materials from which they were made.

Exhibits of lino-cuts and life studies, some a little frightening in their colourful vigour, were to be seen in the Art Room, whilst in the Upper Hall was a display of gleaming silver Challenge Cup and Shield including the inter-House Sports trophies, and others won by the School in various sporting events.

The Science Laboratory was as densely-packed and rather more messy than on previous occasions but again it was undoubtedly one of the major attractions, boys and parents, chiefly the former, lingering long among its working models and scientific devices, turning handles here, pressing buttons there and receiving electric shocks elsewhere.

There were more scientific experiments in the Science Room, together with displays by the Plastic and Stamp Clubs respectively.

A screening of 16 mm. cine films, used in teaching, in the History Room, was not too well attended, although enjoyed by those who decided to wait for one of the three sittings.

Needless to say, the Exhibition did not finish to time; it never does. And I hope it never will.

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT, 1954

Television is having an effect upon the great affairs of our nation. Candidates in the recent election have been heard to declare that only two types of people attended their meetings—the stalwarts who tore themselves from their Television sets and those who, through poverty or sanity, have not this modern tyrant by their firesides.

Those parents who joined the School on December 16th to view the School Christmas concert, saw the terrible tentacles of Television reaching stealthily into scholastic sobriety. For this concert contained sketches skitting at popular parlour pastimes:—"Animal, Vegetable or Mineral" (5TA), "What's My Line" (5TB), and Lady Macbeth walked in advertiser's nightmare (IE). 4B, breaking up the workshop, and 3TH (with its soprano sergeant) in the Army amused the audience, while 2E convulsed the congregation with a "canned" serenade made from a frying-pan-guitar around "The Tower," which was adjudged the most commendable effort of the afternoon. Other entertainment was provided by various groups of boys who, with hands too slow to deceive the eye, and by shouting their schoolboy slapstick humour, succeeded, somehow, in amusing the boys.

It is one thing to play the fool among others on a stage but quite another to attempt to provide musical interludes of a serious nature, solo. The various kinds and standards of music provided by Philpot, Morgan, J., Gache and Newnham, and the Junior School Choir, were, therefore, admirable.

Many boys, assisted here and there by the Staff, gave of their best to entertain the School in lighthearted mood and the concert gained from their enthusiasm all that it lacked in experience and ability. It would be invidious to select individuals for special praise and boring to mention them all; but their efforts were rewarded by the applause and the speed with which the ice-cream, so generously given by the parents, was despatched to inner darkness testifies to its appreciation.

E.A.R.

PROGRAMME

1. JUNIOR SCHOOL CHOIR : The Road to the Isles. Forms 1E and 2E. 1E : Burris, Lees, Moore, Morris, Ryan. 2E : Collins, Forrest, Martin, Hubsch, Samme, Tilley, Williams, W.M.
2. SKETCH : Trouble in the Workshop—Form B.
   Mr. Wood Knott, S.A.P. ..... Wakling
   Scroggsbody ..... Sparrow
   Snivelsnitch ..... Butler
3. ACCORDION SOLOS : Polka and Tango.
   Philpot, Form 4C.
4. SKETCH : Lady Macbeth Walks Again.
   Form 1E.
   The Doctor ..... Lloyd, D.
   Lady-in-Waiting ..... Ginn
   Lady Macbeth (somnambulant) ..... Prince
   The Announcer ..... Jones, R. H.
   Scene—The ante-room to Lady Macbeth's bedroom. It is night !
5. SKETCH : The Magician. Form 4B.
   Huxley, Nicholson, Sparrow.
6. MUSEUM PIECE : Animal, Vegetable or Mineral. Form 5TA.
   Chairman ... Mr. Glyn, D. Flynn (Fellow of All Saints).
   Panel : 1. Professor J. B. Parr (Director of Fooling, 5TA).
   2. Lady A. J. Kennerson (The famous Rubber-Jaw).
   3. Sir Mortimer Robertson (The Fifth Form Fossil Finder).
   Challengers : The Garratt Museum.
7. MAGIC. Duck, Grubb, Stott, Form 3A.
8. INTERVAL
   (During which ice-cream will be distributed, thanks again to the generosity of the Parents Association).
9. JUNIOR SCHOOL : The Happy Wanderer.
   Forms 1E and 2E Choir.
10. SKETCH : The Crazy Gang. Form 3TH.
    Major Laugh ..... Lee
    Sgt. Crane ..... May
    Pte. Whout ..... Oliver
    Pte. Sylvester ——————
    (In four short, sharp, shots !)
11. CONJURING. Tucker, Scott, R., Form 3A.
12. DUET (Piano and Trumpet):
    Trumpet Voluntary (Purcell) Form 5TB
    Trumpet : R. Gaché. Piano : Newnham.
13. SKETCH : The Tower. Form 2E.
    Baron ..... Robins
    Knight ..... Phillips
    Sophie ..... Collman
    Narrator ..... Parrott
14. HARMONICA SOLOS. J. Morgan, Form 5TH.
15. MIME : The Popular Seat. Form 1E.
    (Arkill, Austin, Burriss, Jackson, Vickers).
16. CONJURING. Monney, Russell, Form 4TH.
17. TELEVISION INTERLUDE : What's My Line ? Form 5TB.
    Chairman : Mr. Eamon Collard.
    Panel : Mr. Gilbert H. Carter, Miss Barbara Fifield, Lady Barnett-Dellars, Mr. Nixon Steel.
    Signees : 1. Bertie Bovril (England).
    2. Flora Batty (McKay).
    3. B. E. Good (Wareham).
18. JUNIOR SCHOOL CHOIR : Silent Night.
    Forms 1E and 2E.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

HOUSE NOTES

GAINSBOROUGH HOUSE

Gainsborough is very pleased to have won the Diligence Shield again. Set C was mainly responsible for our success. To mention only a few names, Morgan, Shearwood and McDonough have been included in the Honours list.

In Swimming we have done better this year, finishing third in the Gala and obtaining some "firsts" in the races.

In Football we have lost most of last year's successful team, but we managed to come third in the Inter-House competition.

In Cross-country, also, we came third—which was one place better than last year; and we were third again in Boxing—which was one place worse than last year.

In Athletics we were second; and the fact that our points came mostly from our Juniors is a promising sign for the future. In conclusion we can claim that we have held our leading position in Diligence and have done rather better in sport.

M. BOWLING.

SCOTT HOUSE

We have had our share of success during the year. Our position of "runner-up" in the Diligence award was maintained but this is hardly good enough. It would want very little extra effort by each boy to put the House on top.

High marks have been obtained by Allen, T., Barker, Jenkins, Pearce, Hailstone and Carr, E.

In Swimming, we made a great effort but were again narrowly beaten into second place.

Our excellent "packing" in the Cross-country, with Riley 2, Mellish 3, Fifield 5, Parker 6, Brown 7 and Hailstone 13, gave the Senior team a very creditable victory; but the Juniors gave a rather poor display with only Payne (2nd) running well.

The football proved most unsatisfactory as Scott needed to play one more match to stand a chance of winning the Championship and, although there was the whole of the Easter Term, it was not arranged.

We maintained our position as winners in the Athletic Championships with a score of 226, against the runners-up, Gainsborough (143½). Our success was mainly due to the efforts of Mellish, Riley, Spenser, Sparke, Payne, Goldsmith, Preston, Powell and Constantine.

That the Boxing Championship was retained was due to Cordery, Smithers, Brown, Davey and Henson, who were winners of their weight, and Shaw, Fifield, Dewson, Jenkins and Powell, "runners up."

The Cricket Trophy passed into our possession at the end of last season but it is too early to say anything about our chance of retaining it.

D. F. MELLISH.

SMEATON HOUSE

Football.—This year, as explained in School Football notes, Smeaton was awarded the trophy.

Cricket.—We were unable to regain possession of the cricket trophy which was shared by Scott and Gainsborough. However, we have quite a good team this year and hope for a successful season.

Swimming.—This year we regained the trophy which we lost to Scott House the previous year. I don't think any one should be singled out. It was a real team effort made possible by boys turning up for trials and ably captained by W. Field.

Cross-Country.—The House put up a very good performance again this year, being placed second to Scott House in the Senior event. The team was captained by H. Lydiate, who was a very easy first man home.

The Junior team won the Junior race, being captained by P. Duggan, who also was an easy first man home.

Boxing.—Again our entries were few and we were placed last in the House competition. The most accomplished boxer we have is M. Speller, who won the School and a Wandsworth Championship at his weight.

H. LYDIATE
(House Captain).

WREN HOUSE

The past year has not been a very successful one for our House, for we have not been able to win any of the inter-House competitions.

We had extremely hard luck in the swimming competition, for after leading on points all the way through the gala we were just "pipped on the post" by Smeaton House by one extra point which they gained in the Senior relay race. Congratulations to Gray (5TB) on winning the Open Championship for the second year.

In the Boxing tournament individual winners at their respective weights were—Lynch (3A) in the Junior Competition, and Gould (5GA), Flynn (5TA) in the Senior. Congratulations to these two boys, but our all-round effort was not good enough and we finished in third place.

The School Athletics meeting held in April at the Tooting Track, was very successful, but not many successes came to Wren House. Last year we were a very creditable second but, sad to report, this year we were last in the House placings. Maybe it was because the meeting was held early this year and our boys had not got into training!

We have high hopes in this year's cricket championship. We have a useful team led by Flynn (5TA) as captain, and we have already beaten Scott House. If this form is kept up we have a good chance of winning the competition.

Again it is sad to report that our diligence record is far from good. We have consistently held third place in the awards and frankly, this is not good enough. There is a large proportion of junior form boys in our House, and we look to them to work hard and improve the diligence marks for both their Set and House.

So let us apply ourselves to both sport and schoolwork so that in next year's School magazine we can boast about how many trophies we hold.

M. FLYNN.

SCHOOL FOOTBALL 1954-55

Master-in-charge : MR. HOLMES

Fixtures this year suffered badly from the weather, pitches often being in too bad a condition to permit play.

The Premier team only played one game, that being versus Wandsworth Technical, which Premiers won by 5 goals to 2.

The Senior team played ten games, winning nine and losing one, scoring 73 goals and conceding 15. The Senior teams were chosen from Flynn (Capt.), Dobson (Vice-Capt.), Pheysey, Gould, Berry, Carr, Leggett, Mason, Ayling, DeLaHaye, Shearwood, Salmon, Newham, Squires, A. Smith.

The Intermediate team only played six games, winning five and drawing one, scoring 26 goals against 9. The teams were chosen from Mills (Capt.), Ellis (Vice-Capt.), Burris, Butler, Wade, Wingfield, Kirby, Constantine, Howe, True, Elsom, Prockter, Claxton, Simpson.

This season House Football was run on a league basis. Bad weather prevented completion and as Smeaton House had the highest number of points at end of term the games committee awarded the Football trophy to Smeaton House.

Colours awarded:—Full : M. Flynn, T. Pheysey, R. Dobson, E. Carr, D. Leggett, W. Salmon, M. Berry. Half : R. Gould, A. Smith, E. Newham, B. Ayling. Junior : K. Mills, M. Ellis, B. Butler, A. Wade, D. Wingfield, P. Kirby, M. Howe, R. True, T. Elsom, D. Simpson.

M. J. FLYNN
(Captain).

BOXING

The attendance at the weekly training lessons was not good and this was reflected in both the number of entrants for the House Boxing Competition and the quality of the boxing. However, there was much spirited boxing in some of the preliminary bouts and in this connection the bouts between Barker and Dewson, Pearce and Nolan, deserve mention. The best bouts in the Finals were those between Jenkins and Brown, Dewson and Gould.

The list of finalists was as follows, the names of the winners appearing first.

Juniors—

6st. :	Cordery (Sc) v. Massey (W).
6½st. :	Speller (Sm) v. Patrick (Sm).
7st. :	Henson (Sc) w.o.
7½st. :	Evans (Sm) w.o.
	Lynch (W) v. Shaw (Sc).
	Smithers (Sc) v. May (Sm).

Seniors—

6½st. :	Carter T. (W.) w.o.
7½st. :	Briault (G) w.o.
8st. :	Burchall (G) v. Fifield (Sc).
8½st. :	Gould (W) v. Dewson (Sc).
9st. :	Soden (G) v. Philpot (Sm).
9½st. :	Brown (Sc) v. Jenkins (Sc).
10st. :	Davey (Sc) v. Pell (G).
10½st. :	Alden (G) v. Powell (Sc).

Scott House retained the House Trophy, the final points being as follows :

1. Scott (Sc), 34 points.
2. Gainsborough (G), 25 points.
3. Wren (W), 23 points.
4. Smeaton (Sm), 16 points.

No one won a Great Britain Championship this year but Speller reached the South Western Divisional Finals, losing only after a close bout. Speller was awarded Junior Colours.

CROSS-COUNTRY 1954-5

In spite of the weather we had a most enjoyable season, the most outstanding feature being the excellent running of our Captain, H. Lydiate. He won practically every School race including the Wandsworth District and London Technical Schools. Probably his best performances were, however, 11th at Brighton in the Southern Counties, and 18th at Cardington in the English National Championships.

He was well supported by his team. In particular, Mellish worked hard, while the most improved runner was Duggan. Hancock maintained his form but must work harder if he is to improve. Riley and Croffley improved during the season.

The School teams won both Senior and Junior races in the District and Technical School Championships. They also did well to come 3rd in the Cambridge Harriers race.

The Inter-House Championships produced some good running. The placing of Scott House in the Senior races was excellent, giving them a total of 36 for their first six men, and in the Junior event Smeaton did nearly as well with a total of 43. Among the newcomers we shall expect to hear more of G. Thomas and Clark, as well as a number of others.

SWIMMING

A good start was made this season, when the School team were successful in winning the Intermediate Trophy at the London Technical Schools Gala.

The Life Saving Section continues to flourish and the following boys have been awarded the Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society : Barker, Birchall, Bowling, Giles, Newnham, Jenkins, Wynne.

This year for the first time we entered a number of boys for the more advanced examination for the Bronze Cross of the Society, and the following were successful : Barker, Beetlestone, Birchall, Bowling, Giles and Newnham.

The annual Gala was held on Friday, 24th September, 1954, and Mr. Gooding, Chairman of the Parents Association, presented the shield to Smeaton, the winning House.

ANNUAL SWIMMING GALA RESULTS

1E and 2E One Length Freestyle : 1st Mills, 2nd Hender, 3rd Samme, 4th Collins.

Junior Back Stroke : 1st Duggan, 2nd House, 3rd Howes.

Senior Back Stroke : 1st Bowling, 2nd Berry, 3rd Davey, 4th Bullen.

Junior Breast Stroke : 1st Palmer, 2nd Carter, 3rd Morris.

Senior Breast Stroke : 1st Wynne, 2nd Newnham, 3rd Langan, 4th Lydiate.

Junior Freestyle : 1st Rashbrook, 2nd Cullum, 3rd Mockford, 4th Smithers.

Senior Freestyle : 1st Gray, 2nd Smith, 3rd Brown, 4th Kelly.

100 Yards Freestyle (Open): 1st Gray, 2nd Smith, 3rd Bowling, 4th Payne.

Junior Team Race : 1st Smeaton, 2nd Wren, 3rd Scott, 4th Gainsborough.

Senior Team Race : 1st Smeaton, 2nd Gainsborough, 3rd Scott, 4th Wren.

1E and 2D Diving : 1st Prockter, 2nd Collman, 3rd White, 4th Parrott.

Junior Diving : 1st Rashbrooke, 2nd Lynch, 3rd Smithers, 4th Hannay.

Senior Diving : 1st Hargreave, 2nd Lydiate, 3rd Kelly, 4th Starey.

Underwater Race : 1st Mellish, 2nd Garlick, 3rd Alden, 4th Panayi.

The Tug-o'-war unfortunately had to be abandoned owing to repeated failure of the rope.

ATHLETICS

Once again the weather was kind to us for the Inter-House Championships held at Tooting Bec Track on March 31st. It proved quite an enjoyable meeting and there were a number of good performances, as will be seen from the results.

Scott succeeded in maintaining their run of successes with 226 points to a total of 143½ by the "runers-up," Gainsborough.

In the District sports the combined team were again successful in both the Senior and Junior contests. Probably the outstanding performance was the 10ft. by Berry in the Pole Vault.

In the London Championships held at Hurlingham the School was very well represented in the Wandsworth District team. A number of boys met with success.

Senior—

Pole Vault—Mellish 2nd.

Intermediate—

Pole Vault—Berry 1st, 9ft. 9ins. (record). Preston 3rd.

110 Yards Hurdles—Nebbitt 1st, 14.8 secs. (record).

Junior—

80 Yards Hurdles—Payne 1st, 10.6 secs. (record).

Pole Vault—Barratt 1st, 7ft. 3ins. (record).

Javelin—Nash 2nd, 116ft. 7ins.

Berry, Nebbitt, Payne and Barratt have been selected for the London team for the National Championships at Manchester on July 15/16th. We wish them the best of luck.

H. Lydiate left us just before the London Championships but he still turns up for training and has just won the Kent County Youth Mile Championship. We wish him a most successful future.

The School Sports results are given below:—

Senior Mile : 1 Lydiate (Sc), 2 Mellish (Sc), 3 Riley (Sc). Time : 4m. 40.2s.

Junior Mile : 1 Duggan (Sm), 2 Thomas (G), 3 Barratt (G). Time : 4m. 24.2s.

Senior 880 : 1 Riley (Sc), 2 Field (Sm), 3 Stenhouse (Sm). Time : 2m. 22.8s.

Junior 880 : 1 Duggen (Sm), 2 Thomas (G), 3 O'Hara (W). Time : 2m. 34s.

Senior 440 : 1 Mellish (Sc), 2 Flynn (W), 3 Preston (Sc). Time : 60.2s.

Junior 440 : 1 Payne (Sc), 2 Bonner (Sc), 3 Clark (W). Time : 60.8s.

Senior 220 : 1 Sparke (Sc), 2 Spenser (Sc), 3 Goldsmith (Sc). Time : 27.6s.

Junior 220 : 1 Cattani (G), 2 Salmon (G), 3 Constantine (Sc). Time : 29.5s.

Senior 100 : 1 Spenser (Sc), 2 Carr E. (Sc), 3 Sparke (Sc). Time : 11.7s.

Junior 100 : 1 Muncey (G), 2 Cattani (G), 3 Constantine (Sc). Time : 12.4s.

Senior 110 Yards Hurdles : 1 Stone (W), 2 Goldsmith (Sc), 3 Powell (Sc). Time : 18.5s.
Junior 80 Yards Hurdles : 1 Payne (Sc), 2 K. Evans (Sm), 3 D. Evans (Sm). Time : 11.6s.
Senior Relay : 1 Scott, 2 Wren, 3 Smeaton, 4 Gainsborough. Time : 53.9s.
Junior Relay : 1 Wren, 2 Gainsborough, 3 Smeaton. Time : 59.9s.
Senior Pole Vault : 1 Mellish (Sc), 2 Berry (Sm), 3 Preston (Sc). Height : 9ft. 6ins.
Junior Pole Vault : 1 Payne (Sc), 2 Duggan (Sm), 3 Bonner (Sc). Height : 6ft. 6ins.
Senior High Jump : 1 Stone (W), 2 Preston (Sc), 3 Playle (Sm) and Alden (G). Height : 4ft. 9ins.
Junior High Jump : 1 Nash (G), 2 Payne (Sc), 3 Duggan (Sm). Height : 4ft. 8ins.
Senior Hop, Step and Jump : 1 Powell (Sc), 2 Steel (W), 3 Melrose (G). Distance : 34ft. 8ins.
Junior Hop, Step and Jump : 1 Barratt (G), 2 Laccohee (W), 3 Baker (G). Distance : 31ft. 10½ins.
Senior Long Jump : 1 Sergeant (G), 2 Spenser (Sc), 3 Rogers (Sm). Distance : 15ft. 2ins.
Junior Long Jump : 1 Salmon (G), 2 Davey (Sc), 3 Dennis (Sm). Distance : 14ft. 7ins.
Senior Javelin : 1 Warren (G), 2 Kennerson (G), 3 Flynn (W). Distance : 92ft.
Junior Javelin : 1 Nash (G), 2 Howes (W), 3 Hanham (Sm). Distance : 106ft. 8ins.
Senior Discus : 1 Smith (Sm), 2 Bailey (G), 3 Bowling (G). Distance : 96ft. 7ins.
Junior Discus : 1 Boyce (G), 2 Davies (Sc), 3 Hurcomb (W). Distance : 72ft. 5ins.
Senior Shot : 1 Parish (Sc), 2 Stenhouse (Sm), 3 Steel (W). Distance : 29ft. 8ins.
Junior Shot : 1 Davey (Sc), 2 Milward (W), 3 Bell (Sc). Distance : 26ft. 11ins.

House Points : 1 Scott, 226; 2 Gainsborough, 143½; 3 Smeaton, 136½; 4 Wren, 108.

DILIGENCE

Gainsborough is again the leading House, with Scott a good second. Judging from the records to date, it seems unlikely that Scott will do so well at the next and last award that they will beat Gainsborough.

The leading Set is Gainsborough C, which has kept the lead at every award, and with a comfortable margin of points.

The House and Set totals to date are as follows:—

Gainsborough	A = 17.47	
	B = 15.86	
	C = 23.07	Total = 56.40.
Scott	A = 15.24	
	B = 17.58	
	C = 16.28	Total = 49.10
Smeaton	A = 15.07	
	B = 15.72	
	C = 11.94	Total = 42.73
Wren	A = 14.55	
	B = 14.73	
	C = 13.35	Total = 42.63

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE FIELD CLUB

President : Mr. Knibbs. Secretary : P. Marke.

The Club adopted a farm in Surrey last year, called Springbok Farm, Alford, near Cranleigh. Many visits have been made to the farm and they will continue to be made from time to time.

The Club has made a survey of the village of Mickleham, near Box Hill. A more important survey has been made of the Wandle Valley, recording historical and geographical details, and particulars of industries, shopping centres and bus routes. These, with maps of the area, were on show at the School Exhibition.

We thank the heads of the industrial concerns who provided us with information about their products.

The Club subscription is 1/- a term, and we have film shows once a month. We regret to announce that our Founder President is leaving at the end of this term; and we hope that the new Geography Master will carry on with the Club.

THE STAMP CLUB

President : Mr. Young. Secretary : T. Henderson.

In spite of the increase in the subscription (now 6d.), the Club has 59 members, mostly drawn from the lower forms.

Two competitions have been held. The first, on 14th December, was judged by Mr. Clark and Mr. Murray, who awarded the chief prizes to Henderson and Butler. The second, on 1st April, was to have been judged by Mr. Grinyer, but he was unable to be present, so Mr. Gee acted in his place. On this occasion Butler (4A) and Morgan (2E) were the chief prize-winners with three awards each.

Mr. Grinyer later on sent some sheets of stamps to be distributed among the junior members of the Club. These sheets, apart from the value of the stamps, were useful as models for "writing up" album pages. The Club is very grateful to Mr. Grinyer for his gifts, which will all have been distributed before the term ends.

CHESS CLUB

President : Mr. Pettitt. Secretary : M. Butler.
Treasurer : G. Simpson.

The Club has had a very successful run this year, despite the recent loss of many of our older and more able players now engaged in the field of industry, where, I am sure, all members join me in wishing them every success.

During a recent meeting it was decided to award two prizes for this year's tournament, which will have taken place by the time this appears in print. It was also proposed that a House System should be introduced after the summer holidays, whereby a friendly spirit of rivalry may be encouraged between our enthusiasts desirous of entering the Inter-House tournaments. This proposal met with great approval, the motion being carried unanimously.

The rules and conditions for membership remain unaltered and may be seen in Studio II.

All boys interested in Chess are invited to give in their names to the Secretary for membership next year.

THE FISHING CLUB

President : Mr. Gee. Secretary : T. Allen.

The Club has had several good catches this year of roach, perch and chub, but they have not been so good as in previous years owing to the flooded rivers. Two members made a trip to Weybridge, when the river was in this state, for perch. They were using red worms as bait and were pestered by pope all day. At the end of the day's fishing they had caught 25 small pope and one perch about four inches long. Another member tried the fishing in Ham Pitts at Teddington and his luck on the whole was fairly good. He landed several small bream and eels. On the Weybridge navigation canal a good catch was recorded of a 2 lb. 10 oz. perch taken by an angler fishing sink and draw with a lob worm. To fish this stretch with success the angler must know the deepest spots as the canal in most places is no more than two feet deep.

The President went fishing on the River Rother for mullet and caught fish ranging from 2 lbs. to 4 lbs. in weight.

Sea fishing has been good this year. The President on one occasion, fishing from a boat, caught a 7 lb. 2 oz. thornback skate. Plaice have been caught in great numbers of weights ranging from a few ounces to several pounds. Gar fish have been caught by spinning and it has been noted that the gar takes the spinner from underneath. The gar is a long fish like an eel except that it has a long snout and very sharp teeth. It is a very sporting fish and well worth fishing for.

THE HANDICRAFTS CLUB

President : Mr. Moss. Secretary : R. McDonough.

The Handicrafts Club has now been going strong for about five years. Mr. Moss, who is the President, is there to help and to see that all goes well. The type of work that is done in the Club is plaster-casting, carpentry and marquetry, which is being tried by one or two boys. While some boys are painting their moulded objects, others are making stools or book-cases or using the wood lathe for turning lamp-stands.

The Club meets every Tuesday and it is self-supporting, a small sum of 2d. being paid by those attending. The money collected is used for buying more materials.

THE CYCLING CLUB (WANDSWORTH (WHEELERS)

President : Mr. Holmes. Secretary : M. Bowling.

The Club greatly regrets the loss of the late Mr. Sexton, who was President for many years.

Under the firm leadership of our new President, Mr. Holmes, the Club has accomplished some good runs. To start the season the Club went to Southend and had an enjoyable day. At Easter, Leith Hill was visited, although the ride was very hilly. Later, in rather chilly conditions, a tour was made of Windsor via Runnymede. We looked round the Castle and then rode on to Virginia Water. On the way home the Club stopped at London Airport.

The Club will be making many more runs in the near future.

In conclusion, the Club wishes to state that all new boys will be readily accepted as members.

NATURE CLUB

President : Mr. Buxton. Secretary : D. Birchall.

As soon as the last issue of the magazine was circulated, Mortimer kindly presented the Club with six water snails for the aquarium. These have bred during the year. Davey provided us with some plants, also Hannay brought a cat-fish that lived in the aquarium until the Christmas holidays, when one of the members took it home —and forgot to return it.

At one meeting we met and discussed a nature film strip on pond life. Some pictures of plant and animal life were carefully got together and displayed at the exhibition.

We are always glad to see new members.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

President : Mr. Murray. Secretary : P. Marke.

This Club meets in the Brickwork Shop and we pay a subscription of 6d. a time.

The Club has been meeting during the dinner hour but are now going back to a night during the week.

The Club is still going well. D. Birchall has a flash-camera and we are waiting for some good results from him.

HOLIDAYS ABROAD

AUSTRIA, 1955

On May 28th a party of 25 boys led by Messrs. Knibbs and Moss boarded the boat train at Victoria for an eleven-day tour of Austria. The outlook was not promising. It was raining at Dover, south cones were hoisted. At Munich, it was still raining next morning, and we had cause to wish that the Allied bombers had not been so efficient in their devastation of the station. We were soaked when changing trains. Yet through it all there was a gleam of hope. In England there was to be a railway strike. Perhaps we would not be able to get back to school again. Perhaps our holiday would be prolonged.

We were greeted on our arrival at our hotel in Westendorf in a language foreign to most of us; but there was no mistaking the cordiality of our welcome. The charm and friendliness of the people is one of our happiest memories. In fact the charm so captivated certain male hearts that there were some touching scenes on our departure.

Our hotel was spotlessly clean and the food good and plentiful, though sometimes garnished with unfamiliar flavours. The beds were strange by English standards, for the sheets were not meant to be tucked in; and in place of many blankets was a feather eiderdown enclosed in a white cover. We understand that one person mistook this for a mattress.

Did we enjoy ourselves ? The answer is undoubtedly in the affirmative. There were some embarrassing moments as, for example, when we all had to make up our mind whose O.O. it was.

The weather was kind to us and was often very hot. We shall long remember the rock scramble up Krimml Falls, the snow fight on the Nordkett behind Innsbruck, the ski-ing on Gross Glockner and the hazardous journey round 30 hairpin bends on a road enveloped in mist and

bounded by snow piled ten feet high in June. Who could forget the plate of cream some of us enjoyed in Kitzbuhel, the fields of Alpine flowers, the music of the cow-bells, and the gaiety of the Tyrolean evenings ?

All these are now memories which we shall all treasure. For a brief moment in our lives we lifted up our eyes to the hills and saw them towering above the mist. As we look back through the mists of time, we may see above them all the vision of the God of creation.

R.W.K.

SPANISH JOURNEY

I left Victoria on Easter Sunday morning en route for Spain. The Channel crossing was good and the boat entered Dieppe Harbour in warm sunshine.

From Dieppe, I went to Paris, whence I caught the night train to San Sebastian, an attractive watering place in the corner of the Bay of Biscay. I arrived about mid-day and, being hungry, promptly searched for a suitable restaurant. But it was a "fiesta" or holiday, being Easter Monday, and it was only after much questioning in broken Spanish that I was directed to the only one open, a very exclusive one and very expensive.

I spent the afternoon and early evening exploring the hilly parts of San Sebastian, whence I obtained colourful views of the bays and creeks, all looking very attractive in the clear air and warm Spanish sunshine.

I left, somewhat reluctantly, on the evening train for Madrid, the capital of Spain, perched on the Sierras, over 2,000 feet above sea level. Altogether, I stayed four days in Madrid and got to like it. It is a spacious, clean, modern city with tree-lined thoroughfares, and it boasts an Underground Railway, which, however, is more like the Metro in Paris than the Tube in London; and much cheaper !

I visited the famous Prado Museum and saw the works of the best-known Spanish painters, Velasquez, Murillo, Ribera and El Greco. I spent one day at El Escorial, the palace-monastery of Philip II, built high in the Sierras and about 20 miles from Madrid. I also visited Toledo, the city famed in mediaeval times for sword-making and now for its inlaid metalwork. Once upon a time, a Toledo blade could be rolled up like a clock spring, without breaking !

From Madrid, I travelled overnight to Cordova, which I reached at five the next morning, so I was able to enter the city from the long Roman bridge, at about daybreak, in the company of peasants bringing their wares to market in carts, on mules or on donkeys, the colourful Moorish trappings of the latter adding to the gaiety of the scene. It was an unforgettable sight in the early morning sunlight, the huge mosque ahead and the white-walled houses on its flanks faithfully and colourfully reflected in the placid waters of the broad Guadalquivir.

I was the first person in the mosque that morning, the massive gates opening to admit me into what seemed to be a forest of stone palm-trees; at least, that was the impression I obtained looking round in the dim, restricted light. A galaxy of colourful red and white arches, radiating out from the slender pillars, still wonderfully upright, supporting the heavy roof and domes above ! Hundreds of slender pillars of marble, porphyry, jasper, granite and alabaster either quarried from the ruins of Roman temples and Christian churches in Spain, or brought from such distant places as Carthage and Constantinople.

The mosque (or Mezquita, as it is called in Cordova) which was built over 1,000 years ago, was once the Mecca of the West, but now it is largely a museum piece, although part of it is used as the Roman Catholic Cathedral. It has over 1,000 pillars, which will give some idea of its size.

From Cordova, I went to Malaga, a Mediterranean seaport of some historic interest and the only part of Europe where cane sugar can be successfully grown. I liked its sunny climate, tropical vegetation, historic remains and attractive alcazaba. I also enjoyed the bathing, which was excellent, especially at Torremolinos, a little to the south, which boasts the finest bathing beach in Spain.

There is much poverty in Spain and the standard of living of thousands is much below anything seen in our country. I found the gypsy quarters at El Palo, some three miles out, somewhat grim in spite of their fresh coats of whitewash. Many were merely caves, cut out of the earth, without even a door to give any degree of privacy, and the furniture was of the scantiest. But there was no mistaking the welcome I received as I entered their walled settlement. I was welcomed by the entire population, men, women and children, along with, in many cases, their dogs, cats and hens, all interested to see what providence had sent into their midst.

I was soon surrounded by an interesting, and interested, crowd of people, some eyeing me speculatively, others smiling and gesticulating, women holding out their babies, children shouting "Monéda" and holding out their hands for it ! I found their interest in my possessions much too close for my liking so I threw out a previously-prepared handful of small coins and made good my escape while they swooped down on the spoil.

One day, I visited Ronda, founded by the Romans over 2,000 years ago, perched on a rocky plateau rising abruptly about 500 feet above the level of the surrounding countryside. It is divided into two parts by a winding chasm, very much in the same way as the Grand Canal divides Venice, and connected by bridges, some very old. It also possesses the oldest bull-ring in Spain, built on the site of a Roman amphitheatre, but no longer used.

After a week in and around Malaga, I went by coach over the Sierra Nevada to Granada and stayed the night inside the famous Alhambra, a palace-fortress built by the Moors in the 13th century. It is built on a hill dominating the country around and is blessed with an excellent water supply—an important consideration in an arid land like Spain, where there are few rivers but many dry watercourses; where, in many places, wine is cheaper than water ! It rained most of the time I was in Granada, so I did not see the Alhambra at its best.

I returned via Madrid, Hendaye and Paris to London. The journey was without unusual interest and it gave me time to reflect on the many things I had seen or experienced in Spain.

I thought of the young urchins who had acted as guides : friendly, vivacious and helpful. Some of them had chain-smoked — Spanish cigarettes, too, which made their feat all the more remarkable !

I thought about the Civil Guard, in their green uniforms and queer hats, always polite and ready to assist, but apparently always suspicious of their own countrymen. There is at least one on every train or public transport, and he is always armed.

I remember a whole squad of them entering a train I was travelling on, not a main line express but a local every-station-stopper, and searching every Spaniard, both men and women, and every bag or parcel in their possession. They didn't question or bother me, having, no doubt, Anglo-Saxon indelibly freckled all over my face; nor did they find what they were looking for, because they got out at the next station, looking decidedly non-plussed, without any tell-tale civilian in their midst.

Lastly I saw in my mind's eye a country of white walls and dark corners : of bright sunshine and deep shadows : of much poverty and little wealth; in short, a country of extremes. Yet there is a fascination about Spain which compels one to go there again—as I hope to do in the not too distant future. J.M.

BELGIUM PARTY 1954

On July 26th a party of 21 boys in charge of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Holmes left Victoria Station for an eight-day Belgium holiday. We had good crossings each way and although the English summer was poor the party enjoyed good weather. For many boys it was their first journey abroad, so there was much to interest them.

After arriving at Ostend we found a coach waiting to take us to our hotel at Wenduine. After bedrooms had been allotted a good evening meal was enjoyed; then, after a stroll round the town, most of the boys were ready to sleep.

Wenduine is a pleasant seaside resort, small and unspoilt with sand dunes and fine beaches.

A good programme had been arranged including a fair amount of free time for swimming or cricket, football and a number of visits. When Mr. Holmes played (or, rather, attempted to play) there seemed to be a concerted effort on the part of the boys to prevent him staying long with the bat at cricket or going far with the ball at football.

Blankenberge, within easy walking distance from Wenduine, is a very popular resort with shops crammed with goods to fascinate and tempt the pocket. The ice-creams and sundaes they have there are something to remember.

We visited Bruges, which is a very old town full of interesting churches, museums and many fine medieval buildings. We were very interested to see many women sitting outside their front doors making lace. Some were over ninety years old and the speed with which they moved the bobbins has to be seen to be believed. The lace made is very beautiful, but expensive.

A full day trip was made to Antwerp, where we saw the docks and town. But we were rather disappointed here, our guide not being up to the usual standard.

We had a full day at Knocke, which is a fashionable high-class resort. The coach driver took us on a tour of the newer houses which from an architectural point of view are very interesting and good to look at. There did not appear to be two of the same design.

Zeebrugge was visited and we saw the very modern fishmarket, the 1914-18, 1939-45 War museum and memorial to the fallen in the two wars. Some of the party walked along the famous mole which was still being repaired after the last war damage.

Towards the end of the week we went by coach to Holland, crossing to the island of Walcheren by a very large ferry-boat, and then on to Middleberghe, which is the largest town. There are few people who now wear national dress except on market and festival days. Some clogs are still to be seen worn as also are the women's lovely lace head-dresses. Wherever we travelled we saw great concrete blockhouses which had been built by forced labour during the German occupation. Some had been converted by putting in windows and doors for living accommodation or for storage purposes. On our return to Belgium we stopped at the town of Sluis, which has been entirely rebuilt after being completely destroyed in the war. One very noticeable feature was the very flat country, every possible piece being cultivated, and the vast number of cycles which carry big loads. We saw one lady in full national dress on a bicycle, carrying two large children and two large baskets. We thought it a wonderful feat.

It seemed strange to see shops open seven days a week from 6.30 a.m. to 11 p.m. or even later if customers were there to be served; and the shop assistants seemed quite happy with these conditions. A very pleasing feature was the clean appearance of the shops and streets. One thing greatly missed by most was a nice cup of tea. What tea was to be had was poor and expensive, up to one shilling and eightpence being paid for a cup.

Monday, August 2nd, came all too quickly. An early rise, coffee and buttered rolls, hasty goodbyes to hotel staff, a last look round to see that nothing had been left behind, on the coach to Ostend and home. There was plenty of humour and enjoyment, resolutions were made by many to be included if possible in a similar venture in 1955. H.

NEW BOYS 1954-5

4A

Wilson, W. E.

3TH

Bloomer, E. J.
Bonner, A. A.
Cockell, R. T.
Cordery, R. B.
Cullum, B. M.
Dennis, A. F.
Duggan, P. A.
Dwight, R. B.
Evans, D. R.
Grainger, B. G.
House, D. R.
Laccohee, W. D.
Lee, H. L. B.
McGuigan, A. D.
McPhail, A. P.
Marlow, M. J. J.
Massey, R. A.
May, B. W.
Millward, D. W.
Patrick, M. C.
Smith, D. B.
Smithers, J. W.
Tagg, P.
Williams, D. C.

3A

Baker, D.
Barratt
Blighton, B.
Cahill, J.
Carter, F. M.
Clark, D.
Dibble, M.
Duck, M. E.
Grubb, A.
Howes, R.
Hussey, R.
Lynch, J.
McClelland, M.
Masters, M. W.
Morris, D.
Palmer, M.
Piears, D.
Pyke, R. F.
Salmon, W.
Acott, Roger
Shaw, E. L.
Smith, H.
Stokes, H.
Thomas, G.
Thomas, L.
Tucker, G. C.
Wagstaff, B.
West, R.
Williams, R.

3B

Aplin, M. A.
Beard, M.
Boswell, R. F.
Clark, P. M.
Cooper, R.
Gilbertson, L.
Gillman, W.
Hannay, S.
Hancock, R.
Henson, V.
Hillman, N.
Hubsch, E. S.
Hudson, B. A.
Hunter, J.
Jones, E.
Little, D.
Mockford, S. V.
Morcombe, J.
Morris, D.
Oram, K.
Perou, E. W.
Rust, J.
Scott, D. J.
Smithers, M.
Speller, M.
Stott, J. G.
Sullings, D.
Wynne, P. J.

2E

Anderson, I. H. S.
Bellenger, R. E.
Cass, R. A.
Claxton, G.
Collman, D. J.
Coniam, J. A.
Constantine, P. A.
Cownden, D. F.
Firth, D. E.
Forest, D. K.
Hender, G. J.
Hull, C. F. H.
Lawers, A. J.
Martin, L. J. W.
Mills, K. H.
Morgan, M. D.
Murrell, M. J.
Parrott, M. D.
Phillips, J. A.
Prockter, B. E.
Robbins, K.
Samme, T. E.
Smart, C. I.
Tilley, J. S. G.
True, R. M.
Upfold, J. P.
Watkins, G. B.
White, G. C.
Williams, T. C.
Williams, W. M.
Wilson, D. V.
Lake, M. J.

1E

Arkill, J. H.
Austin, W. R.
Bastick, A. M.
Brown, J. K.
Burris, M. A.
Burt, R.
Chandler, M. F. F.
Clark, B. J.
Clarke, H. T.
Dawson, R. H.
Ferris, G. D.
Ginn, M.
Jackson, R. P.
Jones, R. H.
Jones, R. L.
Lees, D. A.
Lloyd, D. C.
Mitchell, B. C.
Morris, M. C.
Mundy, R. C.
Padgington, P. F.
Prince, P. F.
Reeder, R. F.
Ryan, G. S.
Sexton, A.
Skinner, D.
Speller, J. C.
Spencer, C. D.
Vickers, J. F.
Wood, P. H.
Wright, A. T.
Young, R. A.

MR. SEXTON

Mr. James H. Sexton, A.R.C.A., a most beloved member of the Staff, died while on his way to school on Thursday, 17th February, after having returned to school for a few days following a short absence due to heart trouble. Mr. Sexton was a Christian Scientist who fulfilled the principles of his belief to the last degree. He had on many occasions overcome distress and malady with his strong will and a faith in God which never failed him.



Mr. Sexton was born at Carnforth, Yorkshire, but spent his early life at Bingley. He left Crossflats Council School at the age of 14 years and first took employment as an apprentice to a photographer, but he soon turned to Painting and Decorating, attending evening classes and taking an apprenticeship with a local firm of decorators. From the Bingley School of Art he went to the Bradford School of Art and from there gained a scholarship and grant to the Royal College of Art, where he gained his Diploma in Decoration from the School of Design. He became a Silver Medallist of the Institute of British Decorators and a Prizeman with First Class Honours of the City of Guilds of London in 1922.

While in college Mr. Sexton had become interested in Mediaeval Painting and he carried out extensive research on Rood Screens in the Parish Churches in Norfolk. From this work and an original mural decoration scheme he was awarded an Owen Jones Travel Scholarship which took him to Italy. He spent much time in the walled town of Montefalco, where he reproduced the paintings of Benozzo Gozzoli, the Florentine, whose work depicts scenes from the life of St. Francis. Mr. Sexton painted many beautiful water colour drawings of the Italian scene. These are a faithful record in colour and sound drawing with a painstaking attention to detail of the ancient towns. His work was later shown in exhibitions of the South London Group, the Toronto Art Gallery and the Royal Water Colour Society. In later life he exhibited regularly at the Royal Academy.

In 1923 Mr. Sexton built a studio at Chiswick and worked free-lance, designing and carrying out church and interior decoration. His most notable achievements included interiors for Swan and Edgars restaurant, Claridges and the Savoy Hotels. With Colin Gill, he painted the famous eyes at Blenheim Palace and decorated a bedroom suite

after the Chinois style for Lady Duff Cooper. Later he was asked by Thornton Smith & Co. to undertake the decoration of the Canadian Prime Minister's residence in Ottawa. This work took him to Canada, where he settled and became manager of the interior decoration department of a leading firm. He was responsible for the decorating of many churches and public buildings as far west as Calgary.

In 1931 the depression forced Mr. Sexton to turn to teaching and he was appointed Art Master at the Northern Vocational School, Toronto. He returned to England in 1934 for a holiday but remained attracted by the older traditions. He continued working on his own account at decoration and part-time teaching. In the latter profession he came into contact with Mr. F. C. Horstram, A.R.C.A., in 1942. On his appointment to this school, which at that time was a new branch of the Brixton School of Building, housed at Clapham College, while the older J.T.S. was evacuated at Bracknell.

At the time of his death he was the longest serving member of this school and his influence and knowledge has been imparted to many students who became interested in Decoration. His loss will be mourned by many past and present students. "Jimmy" Sexton was a very kind, gifted, and humble gentleman. He was of a quiet disposition but had great ability to take pains, and a discernment which enabled him to learn and to impart all that was good. He is a great loss to the school.

"Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth."

H. SAXON SNELL.

VALETE

Mr. Toynton joined the Staff in 1948 as Senior Mathematics Master and has, with undoubted success, managed to drive home the principles of his subject into the minds of both willing and unwilling pupils.

What he has lacked in inches he has undoubtedly made up for in energy, both vocal and physical, both inside and out of school. His powerful voice has been used to good effect at parents' socials, on the sports field, at school assemblies and in the classroom, the last-named being perhaps somewhat restricted in size to do full justice to its rich resonance.

He has been in charge of the Table Tennis Club since 1952 and it is one of the most successful of the social activities. Prior to taking over the management of this Club, he was master in charge of swimming, to which he had applied himself with the same zeal and with much success. We shall certainly miss him, not only in the classroom but in the common-room, but we wish him every success in his new work, and him and his family every happiness in their new home and environment.

Mr. Toyton is going to the North Devon Technical College, Barnstaple, as Mathematics Master.

Mr. Knibbs joined the Staff in January, 1952, and has proved himself a great asset to the School not only as master in charge of Geography but by his participation in other educational activities.

He has been Cricket Master since he came and he has worked hard not only to build up a good cricket XI but to infuse into boys the spirit of the game.

He has organised trips every year, both at home and abroad, to which there has always been a good response; which testifies deservedly to their popularity. He was Founder-President of the Geology Club and later the Field Club, and he has made these, by frequent excursions, much more outside than inside activities, as indeed they should be.

He has also been in charge of the Film Club, which he took over in 1952, and has both entertained and educated boys, out of school hours, through this visual medium. He has proved himself a good, practical and enterprising teacher, and has always made use of visual and other aids to stimulate an interest in his subject.

He has also taken an active part in School concerts, being not only responsible for the production of plays and sketches, but for the make-up and stage management. He is, however, not being lost to the L.C.C. education service, as he is going to the new Woodberry Downs Comprehensive School as Senior Geography Master. We wish him the best of luck in his new sphere of work and hope to see him from time to time in the future.

Mr. Buxton was appointed Assistant Science Master in January, 1953, coming to the School from Divisional Staff.

He has endeavoured to interest boys in the mysteries of Science and impressed on them the necessity of writing good notes. He founded the Nature Club and introduced younger boys into the methods of feeding and maintaining wildish animals, mainly of the smaller domestic class. This training enabled them to keep them alive when Mr. Buxton was absent with asthma, from which complaint he unfortunately suffers. We hope that he will derive much benefit from the sea air at Great Yarmouth, to the Technical College of which fishing port he is going as Science Master.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

In this year of 1955 the Parents Association has been functioning for five years.

At the A.G.M. on 6th October, the new Council was elected, although the number of parents of new boys to come along was less than last year. However, several new parents were elected to the new Council.

The three dances held last winter at the Technical Institute, Wandsworth, were, as usual, quite successful, particularly as one fell on the night of a strike and yet managed to pay its way. We hope to hold four this winter at the same hall (dates to be verified later), one on New Year's Eve.

The Whist and Beetle Drives continue to be well patronised although we could do with a few more whist players.

A new addition to our entertainment programme this year was a "Social Evening." A number of the Staff attended and, what with games, a little dancing, a little singing, a break

for refreshments and parents talking with teachers, the evening went very quickly indeed. It was a huge success and we must have more of these. I shall be pleased to hear from any parent who is willing to help in the provision of entertainment for this type of function.

Another outing to the seaside by coach has been tentatively suggested for Sunday, 18th September. Will any parent wishing to come and bring friends please contact Mr. Makin as soon as possible, stating how many in the party ?

We should like to see many more parents at our various functions as it is one way of showing interest in the School. After all, the Association was formed primarily for the benefit of the boys.

MRS. L. BROWN.

THE FUTURE SCHOOL

When I took over this School as the Technical Branch of Wandsworth School in September, 1947, it was housed in Merton Road, in the buildings now occupied by Southfields Secondary School. Mr. Horstmann combined the duties of master-in-charge of the school with the headship of the Art Department of the Brixton School of Building. After a term he was succeeded by Mr. Burns, who in turn resigned at the time when the School was removed in 1949 to Garratt Lane.

The intention from the start was to integrate the Technical School with the Grammar School to form the nucleus of a Comprehensive High School. We expected the new building at Sutherland Grove at not too distant a date. As it turned out, we shall have had to wait nine years from the time the administrative union of the two schools took place to the time when they will eventually become one school. The move from Merton Road to Garratt Lane set back our plans for a closer union of the two schools. At that distance apart we judged it better to let the Technical Branch develop its own distinct corporate life, as indeed it has done under Mr. Makin during the last six years. But now the time has come to plan for a complete fusion of the two. This will affect all aspects of School life, and among them incidentally the Magazine. This will be, I expect, the last issue for the Technical Branch as a separate entity.

Boys up to the present Third Forms, and those of the Fourth Forms who stay on in Form 6, may all look forward to completing their education in the new school. From now on I hope they will feel that they are as fully members of the future school as the boys at the grammar school. After all, the position is very much the same in both cases. We should bear in mind that the grammar school boys will be leaving their present building. That will be taken over by the Lower School, that is to say the eleven-year-olds, who will enter in September 1955 and 1956. So that the grammar school contingent will be just as "new" to the future combined school in the new buildings as the technical contingent.

The next twelve months should see the welding together of the grammar and technical branches to form the powerful nucleus over 900 strong around which the gradual expansion to 2,000 will take place. This larger number, however, is to be broken down into more manageable units. In the first place, as I have suggested above, the Lower School of 800 boys of 11-13 years will be separately organised from the Main School of 1,200 boys of 14-19. The social organisation of the Main School will be in four Houses, each strong enough to run its own House activities, very much as if it were a school in itself. Each House will consist of 10 Tutor Sets and will contain boys from every part of the School. Hence the House will be a true reflection of the whole school.

The smaller and more intimate fraternity of the tutorial group will have to have less "scatter," and so each Tutor Set will be drawn from a limited number of adjacent Forms and be in charge of a master whose teaching work is mainly with these forms. It is obviously desirable that a Tutor should meet as many of his Set as possible in his normal teaching periods.

The future school will have a 13 form entry. In any year group there will be 13 parallel forms. These forms will not be strung out in "order of merit," or even order of general ability. Aptitude, bent, and choice will also be deciding factors. Hence the names of the forms will not suggest an order of ability, though, of course, a boy's ability, and more especially his effort, will determine whether he gets into or remains in the form of his choice. Instead of naming the forms A, B, C, D, E, etc., we propose to use the letters of the Greek word PANTHEORETIKOS, which suggests studies of all kinds and in which there is no recurring letter. (Note : the first E is short and pronounced Epsilon : the second long, Eta. Similarly the first O (long) is Omega : the second O (short) Omikron. And TH is a single letter, Theta).

For future recruits the first two years in the Lower School will enable them to show what course in the Main School they are best fitted for. It will be a period of "orientation." In my view it will in practice amount to a process of self-selection. A boy's own efforts and results will decide whether he is suitable to enter upon the course of his first choice. But there will be no finality about allocation of boys at 13 to the courses in the Main School

The overwhelming advantage of a comprehensively organised secondary school is that the doors of opportunity are never closed. Transfer from one course to another will always be possible. A boy who develops academic or technical ambitions later than the age of 13 can make his way to academic or technical forms. There will be a wide choice of Technical courses, including two building and two engineering "streams," a "Technical High School" stream, and others combining academic with technical, and "modern" with technical.

Well now, I have put you "in the picture" as far as I can in an article of this length, but you will hear a good deal more of the plans during this coming year. It is my present intention to make Garratt Lane the Headquarters of the School during the transition period, provided suitable administrative accommodation can be fixed up.

Finally, looking to the future, be assured of this. Wandsworth School, as a comprehensive high school, is going to be a great success. The

plans we are making and the thought that has been given to them for several years now, and the fact that we shall from the start have a strong Grammar and Technical nucleus, will enable the new School rapidly to get into its stride as the leading school of its kind in the country.

You have a vital part to play. May you all be able later in life to look back with pride upon the great adventure in which you were privileged to be the pioneers.

H. RAYMOND KING.

EDITORIAL

There was once—repeat once—a boy who made some appreciative remarks about the School Magazine. In a "free" essay he wrote that he looked forward to its annual appearance, and that he particularly liked the travel articles. That boy should be pleased with this number, which includes accounts of experiences in Austria, Belgium, Spain and the Wild West. And one of them was written by a boy.

Boys, however, have been more backward than ever in sending in contributions to this, the final number of The Pyramid; so even the Miscellany section has been invaded by the Staff. The "scribbling itch" is not, it seems, a disease which is prevalent among the boys.

Looking back over the six years of the Magazine's existence, we recall Ronald Dark, whose hobby, as a fourth-former, was writing verses—(and he got them into print in the *Daily Mirror* as well as in The Pyramid); William Green, who immortalised the Staff of his day in a Ballad of Old Masters; Michael Ingram, whose story in No. 5 was not as good as an essay he once wrote when he was in 3B.

Others, too, have shown some literary ability.

The elder Starey had a lively sense of humour which flashed even in his punishment "lines." His report of a School journey—one of the few not written by a master—had to have the sparkle editorially removed because he made great play of the fact that the "Big Boss" in charge had himself nearly missed the train at the start of the tour which he was to conduct. This, Mr. Jeal maintained, was *not* a fact. Starey's humour was always good-humoured; and he could laugh at himself—as he did on hearing that he had been appointed School Captain.

But the boys with a touch of poetry in them have been the most shy—and baffling. The inspired phrase, the "lyric cry," comes tumbling out—and is lost. Self-consciousness cuts off the fresh supply. One boy, who wrote with bardic fervour about rivers in last term's examinations, was handed back his essay and invited to turn it into a "modern" poem for the Magazine. He was deeply shocked, lost the essay in that mysterious place, "indoors," and, being beyond school age, made haste to take a job and his departure—mute still and inglorious.

Well, well ! We must admit that our Magazine has not created any literary tradition in Garratt Lane. We can, however, claim that The Pyramid has preserved—as Pyramids do—a record of the history of this School during one dynasty.

But let not the Captains and the Secretaries rejoice that they are freed from their chains. One Link remains. Reports will be called for again next year.

MISCELLANY

DO NOT SWING

Do not Swing ! Was ever more sound advice given to youth ? How grateful we should all be that the L.C.C., unable to find a motto for itself in over half-a-century, should spare time to choose one for us and emblazon it in letters of fire on our staircase. I can reveal that these words were not lightly chosen but that only after much deliberation did a committee of experts agree on the choice and disposition of these words.

Psychologists urge that we should not give "don'ts" to the young but always make our commands positive. Suggest not the wrong action, they say, by naming it. But observe, my friends, the spacing of the words. "DO—NOT SWING," is better than "DO NOT—SWING," for the former, paradoxically, makes Not-Swinging a positive and desirable action. Thus the expert in language and the psychologist did cunningly combine and through the precise art of the painter was the correct spacing achieved. Those who watched the painters at work will ever cherish the memory of their precision, not only in the application of the material of their craft, but in greater matters such as knocking off for the tea break. Ever must this be a shining example for our own P. & D. Department.

The Expert in Juvenile Delinquency also sat on the committee and was in full agreement with the chosen words. To an apprentice, said he, sager advice could not be given. Hogarth has shown us that while the industrious apprentice rides in state to the Mansion House, the lazy apprentice rides off to swing at Tyburn or some similar place of contemporary entertainment. Now within our borough there are two famous buildings, Wandsworth School and Wandsworth Jail. The latter has achieved some fame for its swingings but never let it come to pass that the seeds for it were sown in the former. Assuredly DO—NOT SWING.

The Arts were represented, too, by an eminent musician who deplored the tendency to swing which is invading his sphere. Here I am glad to record we are guiltless. A noble example of "not swinging" used to be provided by our two leading violinists at the morning assembly. Never did they attempt to swing a Hymn A nor yet a Hymn M. The tunes are not M. enough for that. With a steady rhythm their bows went to work, the ends maintaining the motion of the pistons of a compound steam-engine so that neither was ever on top dead centre at the same time as the other. What an object lesson to the young musician but, alas, how seldom copied by leading orchestras. If you are embarking on a musical career, remember—Do—not swing.

And what of politics. A cabinet minister who served on the committee averred that he had only reached his position of eminence by avoiding the

tendency to swing either to right or left in his political career. Convinced of how right he was, he had never been left, which might have occurred had he shown his constituents that he was capable of swinging. So if a political career you seek DO—NOT SWING or you may lose your deposit at the next election even without joining the Liberal Party.

Impossible it is for me to enunciate all the pitfalls of swinging but as you make your quiet, purposeful, rapid yet dignified way past the motto DO—NOT SWING, take its advice to your heart and mind and treasure it always.

What's that, you say? My committee of experts is but a phantasy, it simply means that boys are advised against causing the body to execute oscillatory motion whilst suspended by the hands from the top landing. Well, why on earth couldn't they make a plain statement to that effect!

J.H.H.C.

LIFE ON A RANCH

During one summer holiday, I went to the United States to stay with a friend who owned a ranch.

When I arrived there I was amazed at the size of it. It spread over eight hundred acres, on which grazed about a thousand head of cattle, mainly Texas Longhorns, the rest being Shorthorns. To look over the ranch you have to use a horse or a station wagon. My friend owns about twenty cow ponies and fifteen horses. He also has four tractors, one big truck and two Land-Rovers.

After a week I was used to riding a horse cowboy fashion—that is to say, without rising in the saddle—and I knew my way all over the ranch. There were a lot of calves to be rounded up. For this purpose we used the cow-ponies. There were fifteen experienced men on this job and myself, who had very little experience. We broke up into four groups and each group went to a different pasture. The group that I was in went to the west pasture, where we found about twenty calves; so we lit a fire and put the branding irons in to get hot. In the meantime we were hog-tying the calves, which means we were tying both their hind-legs and one front leg together so that they could not get up and run away. When we had finished branding we put out the fire, let the calves loose and returned to the ranch-house and waited for the other groups to return.

When we were all together we were told that we had found and branded ninety-six calves. Then we went over to the eating-house for our meal.

On another occasion we had to put up range fences separating one ranch from another. The fences had to be put up on the south pasture, which was the furthest from the ranch-house. Incidentally our nearest neighbour was twenty-five miles away.

The most exciting thing that happened there was a stampede in which a cow-boy and horse were trampled to death. The stampede started during a freak storm when a flash of lightning frightened the cattle and they stampeded. The rider that was killed had tried to turn the cattle round but his horse stumbled and fell.

On the ranch there were no amusements like the pictures, etc., because we were too far from town. We used to make up our own amusements.

If I was asked to go there again, I would most certainly go.

J. WYNNE, 5TB.

ODE IN MAY

(After William Watson. No. 855 in Oxford Book of English Verse).

I must go forth in the rain
  In a mack and a waterproof hat;
  My wife insists upon that,
She says water is bad on the brain.
But her jesting is turned to gall,
  When we come to the end of the day,
  And the track of my footsteps in the hall
Reveals that man is clay.

What is so gloomy and drear
  As a May that is wet and cold?
  By the almanac we're told
That the season of summer is near.
Yet the sun we but rarely see,
  The temperature's always low
  And the weather reports from the B.B.C.
Seem to foreshadow snow.

Doth the might of the Gods decay?
  Do they yield to the Giants of Frost?
  Yea, surely the Gods have lost
If the field of battle is May.
Vain is the hammer of Thor
  And shivered is Odin's spear,
  For the rain falls ever, the winds blow frore
In this so-called Spring of the Year.

But away with this talk of Gods!
  Leave them in their Twilight to mope!
  For Man is a creature of hope
And cheerfully faces the odds.
Though of May he's no panegyrist,
  "The weather will change with the moon,"
  Says Man, the incurable optimist;
"It's sure to be fine in June!"

W.R.Y.