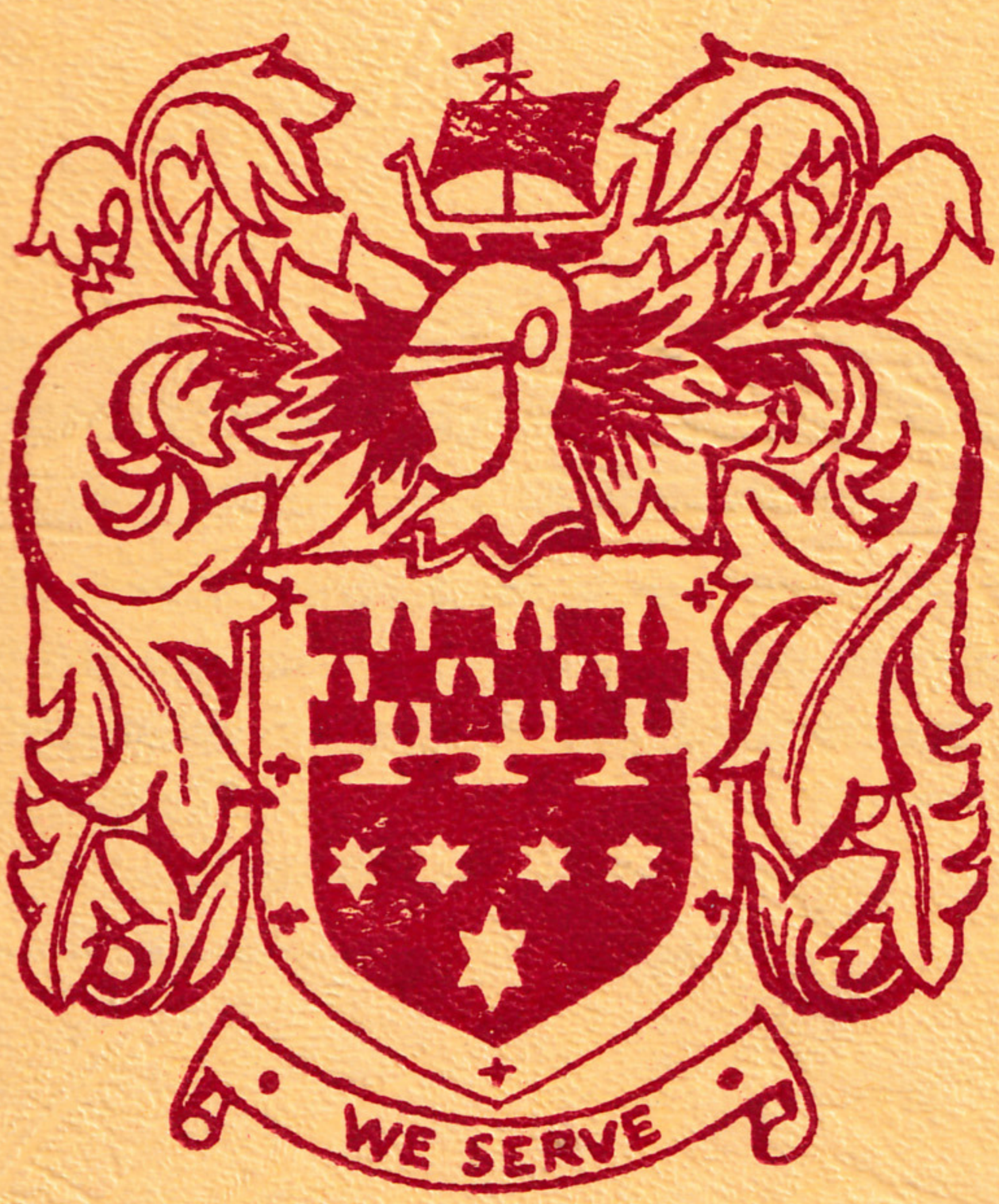
THE LINK



WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

APRIL 1957

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CLOSING DATE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUMMER ISSUE: THURSDAY 20th 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 MAGAZINE OF WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

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HEADMASTER'S NOTES

Now that we have taken over the new building it is natural to talk of the premises we have occupied hitherto as the " old building ". Actually, as we all know, it is in no sense " old " except by comparison. It was opened in 1927 and was then, and has remained since, one of the best and most attractive grammar school buildings in London, both in its external appearance and its internal amenities. The new building gives us the conception of how far and fast school planning and provision has travelled in the last 30 years.

For anyone who remembers the School as it was housed before 1927, or indeed for those who have had perforce to spend some years in the building in Garratt Lane, the splendour and spaciousness of the new school afford an almost incredible contrast. Visitors, recollecting their own school days, whether in the old elementary schools, or in the well-known public schools, are amazed at the extent, quality and range of the building, provision, and equipment that the London County Council has given us.

Judging by what has generally been provided in the past, one might conclude that what we now see around us is far too good for schoolboys. And to be perfectly honest, this is to some extent true. It will take some time for many of you to learn what is due in the way of more gracious living from those who are privileged to receive their education in so gracious an environment.

But I do not doubt that a beautiful and spacious range of buildings will have a continuous, subtle, and pervasive effect both consciously and unconsciously on the standards of all who live in them: in their standards of taste, the quality of their response, the general tone, and on behaviour, manners, and social communication. Yes, I should even expect speech to improve, to be less " loud ", uncontrolled, raucous and badly enunciated: to be more responsive to the dignity and grace of the Hall, say, in which it is uttered, more sensitive to its spacious sounding boards. In the old fashioned barrack school and its narrow-walled playground, speech was a continuous noisy shouting. The new conditions should surely change all that.

It is often on the lips of critics of the Welfare State that people do not appreciate what they do not pay for. And, human nature being what it is, there is some truth in this. Of course, the educational provision we enjoy has to be paid for: the whole community finds the money through rates and taxes. Now if we are truly democratic in spirit we identify ourselves with the community. We feel we are the community and that the School belongs to us. Any loss or damage to the School is felt as harm or grief to us personally. We don't shelve our responsibilities on to some remote impersonal " them ": " they " will put it right: " they " will see that we don't suffer for our carelessness, indifference, indiscipline, and bad stewardship.

And in any case, it would be absurd to imagine that you would necessarily get a better education by paying directly for it. It may be, of course, that if you had to pay for it, you would be less disposed to waste it. But that would only be a reflection on your own character, not on the education, whether good or bad. The great things in life are free in the sense that they

cannot be bought for money. They may cost an effort of the spirit: and whether we enjoy them will depend upon the sense of values that we achieve. It was said of a "self-made" man: "He knew the price of everything and the value of nothing". How badly he had bungled his job!

There is no exclusive passport to the best things in life. They are the kind of things that sharing does not diminish. This is one of the principles upon which our own School is based. Hitherto, we have been a grammar school, and a grammar school we remain, though no longer exclusively so. But we accept the fact that there are, as, of course, there always have been, other avenues to excellence than the strictly academic path. We now offer a wide choice of paths, but all paths lead to a peak of achievement if we have the persistence and character to follow it. Moreover, all the paths lead in the same general direction—towards the educated man—and the ground between them can be crossed by those who make the effort or have the ambition for a particular path. The significant new thing that we bring to an educational system badly in need of it is that we keep open the door of opportunity.

Changes in the Prefectship of the School have occurred this term.

Owing to the heavy demands likely to be made upon the office of Head Prefect by the expansion of the School and its occupation of the new building, it was decided that the office should be taken in turn by I. H. Simons and R. Hore, and that the change-over should take place half-way through the year, at the Spring Half-Term.

The School was fortunate indeed to have at this juncture two senior prefects of such outstanding quality. And they have been generally well supported by the rest of the prefectorial body, by A. E. Preston who remains Second Prefect throughout, and by C. M. Burnett, who officially became Third Prefect at the time of the change-over.

In addition, the increased sphere of responsibility has called for an extension of the prefectorial authority, and the following boys were elected Sub-Prefects in December :—

D. J. Mount, C. Green, R. T. J. Moody, D. J. Birkenshaw, J. McD. McClure, R. Evans, A. A. Oldall, R. Muller, P. D. Harrington, H. Potter, J. N. Jarvis.

D. W. Rotchell was at the same time made a Full Prefect.

As from the second half of the Spring Term the following boys have been given special duties as Pro-Prefects in their respective zones :—

Morant Zone : R. Baker, B. A. Cox, K. H. W. Denyer, R. W. Hancock, E. J. A. Hemmerlein, P. T. Libby, P. A. O. Veale, G. W. Willis.

Spens Zone : M. Beard, M. E. Duck, D. W. Millward, K. G. Rooney, R. Scott, H. W. Smith.

In addition during March the following boys were made Sub-Prefects : P. G. Lewis, J. E. B. Hunt and R. W. Hancock.

After many years service on the Governing Body as representative of London University, and for some years as Vice-Chairman, Professor Dorothy Tarrant has resigned.

As a mark of their high regard and of their indebtedness to her for her able and wise counselling, the Governors invited her to present the prizes at Speech Day on 7th March. The School was glad to have this opportunity of paying tribute to her for the generous services she has given it.

Dr. D. Train succeeds her as London University member. To fill the two vacancies left by Dr. Tarrant's resignation and that of Mrs. Phillips, we are delighted to see on the Governing Body Mr. John Westcott, formerly a most active and interested member of the Parents' Council, and Mr. M. Wildy.

We have this term had official visits from Alderman Mrs. Goodrich, Chairman of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee; Mr. H.

Shearman, Chairman of the L.C.C. Education Committee, who was accompanied by Mr. Houghton, L.C.C. Education Officer; and from the Chairman of the L.C.C., Mrs. Bentwich, who was accompanied by Sir Graham Savage, formerly L.C.C. Education Officer.

There have been unofficial visitors too numerous to mention.

A magnificent rally of parents, 1,300—1,400, marked the first Parents' Association meeting this term, when after half an hour's talk about the new building by Mr. Robert Hening, M.B.E., its architect, the parents in small groups were conducted on a tour of inspection by Tutors and Form Masters.

The second meeting of the Association took the form of a Careers Panel with leading experts in the field of Engineering and Technology to speak and answer questions from parents and senior boys who were privileged on this occasion to attend.

To mark the opening of the new School the Parents' Association have presented the new "Chambers' Encyclopaedia" to the Library. This is a splendid and generous gesture for which we are grateful and of which we are proud. It continues the series of munificent gifts for the benefit of all of us that our Parents' Association has made throughout its long history—25 years. Boys still in the School will remember the gift of the Proscenium, the Fencing Trophy, the Headmaster's Trophy for the Eisteddfod, the Tape Recorder, and a gift of £100 to the Help Fund. And a number of other gifts and grants besides.

The latest gift was formally handed over by Mr. Green, Honorary Secretary, to Alderman Mrs. Goodrich, Chairman of the L.C.C. Secondary Education Sub-Committee and accepted by her on behalf of the School on Speech Day.

Our special service to the Inter-Sixth Society of nine South London grammar schools this term was to arrange the main social occasion, a Dance in the old School hall. The other meeting of the Society was a conference on the Theatre, held at Mayfield, when the guest speakers were Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Margaret Webster, and Pamela Frankau.

Congratulations to P. Cassidy and J. T. Davies upon being awarded L.C.C. Modern Language Travelling Scholarships for three months in France.

It should be put on record that Mr. Semmens, many years a Governor of the School, still continues his annual Drama Prize. This year it was shared by J. P. Fox and G. W. C. Wort.

We welcome to the staff this term Professor Cipolla as part-time instructor in Fencing. Under such eminent and brilliant instruction our standards should go still higher.

We have already set about appointment of additional staff for next September. Details will appear later, but one welcome and interesting appointment is that of Mr. Maurice Ascher, a former pupil, and son of the Mr. Ascher both present and Old Wandsworthians remember so well.

Boys and parents responded in a most generous and gratifying manner to the appeal, sponsored by the School Council, for Displaced Persons and the Hungarian Refugees. A total of £138 17s. 0d. was raised (£50 for the original appeal for Displaced Persons, and £88 17s. 0d. for the Lord Mayor's Hungarian Refugees Appeal).

I acknowledge with gratitude the gift by Sven Weber to the Music Library of two complete orchestral sets of J. C. Bach's Piano Concertos.

I have just heard from David Epstein now at Trinity College, Cambridge, that he has won against the strongest possible competition an Elsie Ballot Scholarship of the value of £550 a year for three years. He thanks me for the School's recommendation and I congratulate him upon this brilliant and outstanding success.

Dr. Tarrant generously followed up her visit to us on Speech Day by a gift of £5 to purchase books for the School Library. We are most grateful.

THE FIRST CROSSING

It falls to the lot of few to cross the river into the promised land twice in a lifetime. True, the river is but the Wandle and the promised land that of Sutherland Grove. With the second crossing fresh in mind come crowding memories of that first crossing twenty-nine years and one term ago, and the promised land that greeted us.

But for some land exchanging, which we never understood at the time, you would have turned left, and not right, out of Southfields station to reach the School, for, that way, in the early twenties, lay the triangular playing field on which the new school was to be built. However, the "New Building", which we must now learn to call the "Lower School", rose out of the clay on the site you all know so well and in September, 1927, we assembled for the first time at Sutherland Grove.

The new building had been so long promised that tangible proof, that "they" were doing something about it, came as rather a surprise. In 1927, for the first and last time, the L.C.C. produced an exhibit for the Hobbies Exhibition and the exhibit was model of the new School then being built at Sutherland Grove. And what was the hobbies exhibition, you ask. Well, it has now grown into the Eisteddfod and has become an established part of school life. It is fitting, in this the Eisteddfod term, that we should spare a thought for the late V. V. Smith who worked so untiringly (and usually perspiringly) to found this feast in the early twenties.

V. V. Smith's other child was The Link which just prior to the first crossing changed its coat from brown to the present orange and bore (like our blazers) the Arms of the Borough of Wandsworth for the first time.

A prominent feature of the landscape, in 1927 as in 1957, was sticky clay which got onto your shoes so that they picked up the granite chips on the drive and transferred them to the interior of the building, to the despair of Mr. Allen, the School Keeper. We know that Mr. Simpson has his troubles, but this is not one of them, for the more modern builders have constructed a concrete road, and you can't carry concrete slabs in on your shoes. But the concrete road is never dignified by the name of "The Drive". How was the clay problem solved? Only by importing lorry-loads of black loam, sowing it with grass seed and letting it efface the clay for over a quarter of a century until the second invasion of builders brought it to boot.

Did we appreciate our promised land? Basically I suppose we did, but grumbles were to be heard. The chief one was "We are off the map" for, you see, no longer did two tram routes and three bus routes pass the School door and the only transport to the outside world was the newly established 39 bus route and the District Railway. Some, who lived north of the Thames, used the District Line, but many, who lived in Putney walked or cycled, approaching the School along the lane that turned off West Hill and became a real road with a proper surface, kerbs, and pavements after you passed Granville Road.

I will not dwell on how we spent our dinner hour prior to the first crossing. That is a story in itself. Suffice to say that the character of the dinner hour changed at this time largely because of a wonderful innovation, namely, school dinners. Not for us was the cafeteria system and the graceless meal, and the venture was purely a domestic one for there was then no London Meals Service. Dinner tickets (9d. each) had to be bought before

morning school (you could buy 5 on Monday for a week if you liked) and surrendered to the prefect in charge of your table. " All standing " grace was sung and then the trolley with piles of plates, dishes of meat and dishes of vegetables was wheeled out of the kitchen and at the words " Table wan, table tew, etc., " those delegated by the prefects collected the provender, the prefect served it out to the eight boys on his table and the meal began. The process was repeated for the sweet and if you were a quick eater you just had longer to sit still until again " all standing " the final grace was sung and you were free to go. From the words of the initial grace the chairman of the dinner committee acquired the nickname " Lord Bisto " by a slight but ingenious mis-pronunciation of one word. Cutlery? That was laid in a civilised fashion and each table carried its trencher of bread (a commodity unknown to the diet-balancers of the London Meals Service) glasses and jug of water.

Another innovation was " Rogger ", now known as Rugby. Soccer perished in the first crossing. After crossing the Wandle the Debating Society opened with the motion " That we were better off in the old school than we are in the new ". The motion was carried but, I think, did not represent considered public opinion.

December 8th saw the official opening of Wandsworth County School (the " County " was dropped soon afterwards) and the end of the month saw the fourth school play, the first in the new surroundings. It was " The Merchant of Venice " produced by the founder of *this* feast, J. J. Jory. S. Cowan produced wonders of scenery from his frying pan of curiously mixed colours in his open-air studio behind the hall.

When Winter mists cleared they revealed a view of he Crystal Palace from the upper floor. The summer term brought ice cream on sale at the School Tuck Shop and vigorous rolling of the newly laid cricket pitch. This activity involved all who could pull a roller whether cricketers or not. The pitch itself, guarded by chestnut palings (about where the open-air theatre is now) was irreverently named " St. Powell's Church Yard ". Sports day was held for the first time on our own field (previously we had trekked to Stamford Bridge for this event).

As after the second crossing so after the first, we had a spate of foreign visitors. The most picturesque was Sir Oferi Atta, Paramount Chief of the Gold Coast who, in native costume and heading his similarly garbed followers, strode vigorously round the School making a colourful display.

Early in July 1928 the first fête and garden party was held and we had seen the year round West of the Wandle and seen the School in the moods of all the seasons. Only then did it feel like home, so don't worry if our new promised land does not yet fit like a glove. It won't until the earth has completed another orbit.

J.H.H.C.

OUR NEW SCHOOL

On the 11th of January, 1957, Wandsworth School re-assembled after the Christmas holiday. As the pupils came in through the gate, they all gathered round the entrance of the new building and up the drive—in a somewhat disorderly manner, although prefects were on duty to try to prevent this crowding. But everybody was excited because it was the day we were to move into our new building, though I was surprised to see that the workman were still on the School premises, making a new cycle shed, and finishing off the Science block.

My set, Pitt C, was sent to Room 10 on the first floor. When we reached the foot of staircase " F " I was amazed by the amount of glass that had been used in the construction of the building. Up the steep stone steps of the staircase we climbed, then through the swing doors; and into the corridor. The corridor was long and uninteresting, and lights were on, as the passage was cut off from all outside light.

Inside the room we seated ourselves behind the most up-to-date desks, and admired our new set room. The desk's body was light brown, the legs darker brown, and all was highly polished and free from scratches—quite different from our old desks. The chairs were separate from the desks, though matching them in colour and design. Attached to the wall at the back of the room was a long wide board, to be used for school notices and anything else the master would like to add. There were three blackboards along the wall behind the master's desk, and below them a line of cupboards which belonged to the master, and were not put there to sit on, as we soon found out.

After we had paid for our dinner, we moved under discipline down to assembly. I was pleased to find that, in spite of the large number of boys, this worked quite smoothly, and there was no sense of crowding in the large hall. The balcony was very well designed, although certain objects puzzled me, and the panelling around the front of the stage had a most striking effect.

During the day we were shown round the new building in forms, and when it came to the time to go home, my impression of the School was: "A most pleasant place to work in".

R. A. YOUNG, 3 Alpha, Pitt C.

"THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR"

by Nikolai Gogol

(English version by D. J. Campbell)

Memories of the dramatic productions of the past few years at Wandsworth School, or (for those many of us who are new here) a glance through recent numbers of the School Magazine, inevitably bring us to the name of John Sharp. This year's production of "The Government Inspector", by Nikolai Gogol, was another challenge nobly met and answered by him, as also by A. E. Preston in a striking first performance in a school play, and indeed by the whole supporting cast, working together under the skilled leadership of Mr. R. W. Waters and Mr. E. E. Bacchus, the producers.

Their difficulties were real. This play is comedy and not farce. It depends on characters who are more than mere types from provincial, pre-communist Russia, and whose simple statements—without being made more conventional by poetry or more coherent by situation—have at times a depth which farce would not seek to suggest. Making these characters, with their gossip, their jealousies, their hopes and fears, into men and women in whom we can believe, is no light task for a school company. Yet this task was set by the high purposes of the producers and creditably carried out by every actor, from the outstanding leading performances of Sharp and Preston, to the convincing cringing of the merchants, played by J. G. F. Parsons and P. M. T. Gillingham.

The play takes a little time to settle into its far-off, local setting: a tiny corner of Imperial Russia. But the stage set and the characters gathered reality in the audience's mind as the action gathered momentum and the true humour of the situation revealed itself in each character in turn. The set, indeed, with the possible exception of the double-doors of the Mayor's room, had a delightfully suitable atmosphere about it. The mural paintings were an especially successful addition to the general impression of the provincial notion of splendour in the Mayor's house; and the attic hotel room, ingeniously contrived as a scene within a scene, was perfectly presented as dirty, miserable and damp. Here a great deal of work had been put in by Derek Ayshford, on the structural side, and above all by Mr. G. A. Hoare, who designed and painted the décor, both enthusiastically assisted by many boys, especially the indefatigable Stage-manager's Team; Ayshford in fact worked tirelessly as stage carpenter, stage electrician and stage-manager, ably seconded by B. J. Coleman and R. Knight, and under the general direction of Mr. H. C. Hall.

A great deal of the depth of this play depends on the playing of the Mayor, a paradox of sincerity, pomposity and avarice. Although new to the School stage, A. E. Preston was excellently cast for this part, and convincingly dressed and made up. He managed rapid changes of mind and mood with real art, and rose to the difficult climax of disillusionment and frustration with power. His was a most impressive performance. It is indeed essential that he and all the characters in this piece should take themselves seriously: the Judge (C. M. Burnett), a hunting man and a self-appointed philosopher, achieved this especially well in his facial expressions and by making full dramatic use of his pipe. The Charity Commissioner (R. M. Bone) came into his own in that excellent scene when each of the town officials sees the supposed Inspector alone, and Sharp gradually becomes bolder with them. The School Superintendant (G. W. C. Wort) suitably emphasised the contrast of his presence with his pettiness, his height with his nervousness. The Postmaster (R. B. Lloyd) gave the audience their first and their last laughs of the evening by his sense of the melodramatic streak in his character. Indeed, perhaps the only frankly comic parts were those of Bobchinski (P. N. Cassidy) and Dobchinski (P. J. Drain), of whom it is more difficult to imagine that they are taking themselves seriously. Their gossip, their curiosity, and their effeminate sensitivity were difficult assignments very weli executed.

One of the standard tests of an all-boys' production is the playing of female parts. The Mayor's Wife (A. W. Atkinson) overcame some incongruity of voice by a consistently high standard of acting. The daughter (played delightfully by J. A. Lally) was overshadowed by her mother, as the part demands. J. H. Cousins brought a lively touch of femininity into another, smaller, lady's part.

Among the socially less important, Yosif was perhaps wisely changed from Gogol's own design—an elderly man-servant—to the quick and intelligent page-boy in the Copying Clerk's service. More intelligent than his master, he still had the necessary licence to criticise and even arrange his master's life, and P. D. Florence made the most of this part. But of getting much out of little, the inn-waiter (G. W. Willis) was the outstanding example—not a word nor a gesture of his failed to get a laugh from a delighted audience. Finally the policeman (R. S. Hore), surlily sweeping the dust of the Mayor's parlour under the carpet, is another small part we shall remember with amusement, while D. W. Rotchell, as the Messenger, spoke the significant last lines with clarity.

This was a more elaborate and ambitious production than Wandsworth School has attempted in the past: it was staged for four nights, December 14th, 15th, 17th and 18th, each time to a packed audience. For months before the production an astonishing amount of work was necessary behind the scenes; Mr. Waters, indeed, was already at work on the text during the Summer holidays. Among others, we have to thank Mr. J. E. Austin for most efficient business management, the make-up team under Mr. G. M. Evans and Mr. G. R. Gibson, the stage team: A. L. Austin, M. A. Burriss, L. A. Cooke, B. J. Easton, R. Evans, J. J. Harding, J. W. McDowall, R. B. Seneviratne, A. E. Stewart, R. G. Twyman, K. T. Veal and E. R. Woods, the prompter, L. J. Martin, and of course the stage-managers, set designer and the co-producers.

But while they could do nothing without the tireless and skilful support of those on the stage and behind it, final honours ought perhaps to be shared by the Mayor, played unfalteringly by Preston, and by the Copying Clerk from St. Petersburg. Slow, dreamy, a self-styled dandy, affected yet incapable, and with a most appropriate London office-girl's accent, Sharp, in a wider sense, took in his audience once more, just as he deceived the local officials of a small town in Tsarist Russia.

K.N.N.

SPEECH DAY Many parents and friends of Wandsworth School had their first introduction to the magnificent new buildings, now in use, at the Speech Day Celebrations on the evening of Thursday,

March 7th. We were gathered in the fine new hall, spacious and graciously decorated, and with exceptionally effective acoustics. This hall is large enough to be the gathering place for the whole School, so that increased size will never be allowed to underline the unity of tradition and purpose that the School retains. That unity of purpose was one of the three themes of the evening's speeches. Equally valuable to the School, in the past and in the future, is its firm connection with the Borough of Wandsworth. Councillor Mrs. Haines, Mayor of Wandsworth, and Sir Hugh Linstead, local Member of Parliament, both emphasised this strongly from the platform. The third theme, put by the Chairman of the Governors, Lt.-Col. G. L. Matthews, O.B.E., T.D., from the Chair, and by the Headmaster in his Report, was that of the enlarged educational opportunities in the future school: for every boy, whatever his ability, there was a special place in the School, and every boy would find encouragement to achieve his own best at every level. The School was lavishly equipped and well staffed to give the greatest opportunity to all, so that there would be no misfits, and every child of ability in any direction—academic or professional, scientific, technical or practical—would be pushed forward at his own best pace. Wandsworth would remain a grammar school for boys of academic ability, but would be an infinite variety of other schools as well, for boys of other talents.

The School Choir, trained to an excellent standard by Mr. Russell Burgess, set the mood of the evening with Purcell's " Come Ye Sons of Art ". " To Celebrate this triumphant day ", to look back over the past year's achievements, to look forward to an exciting future, we were indeed assembled. The Chairman then welcomed the many distinguished guests on the platform. His Worship the Mayor, local councillors, county councillors, Sir Hugh Linstead, M.P., and the School Governors, all were real friends of the School and wished it well at this time of reorganization and expansion. No less an old friend of the School was the guest of honour, Professor Dorothy Tarrant, formerly Professor of Greek at Bedford College, and for nearly thirty years representative of London University among the School Governors. To these governors a special word of thanks was due for their part in recruiting many new members of the School staff over the past year; and this staff, and above all the Headmaster, were congratulated on the smoothness of the move into new premises.

Richard Hore, as Head Prefect, made a brief report on social and athletic activities. With all members of the School at last on the same site, every existing society and activity would gain new members and new energy. This was perhaps especially true of athletics and games—cricket, rugby, fencing and fives—where the School's united strength would be increasingly felt. At the same time many new clubs would be feasible with larger numbers and a greater variety of interests. The beginnings of this expansion, and the continued importance of the four school houses, would be seen at the end of this term in the annual Eisteddfod, enlarged to include the former exhibition of work at the technical branch.

The Headmaster, re-emphasised the meaning of the new pattern of education in the Putney and Wandsworth area which this School, together with Mayfield and Elliot, would provide. No child should now need to seek any form of secondary education outside the area, and the education of every child should be fuller in so far as it was adapted to his individual needs. Nor was there any reason to suppose that the size of the School would be harmful—at Wandsworth the problems of personal contact and communication were receiving special attention, and the tutor-family groups of thirty boys who remained under one master's care throughout their school life had been carried over into the enlarged school. Problems of organization, too, had been solved in anticipation of the difficulties—the technical branch of the School had progressively been reorganized to form an integral part of the main school, and last September 400 new boys and a number of specially selected staff had been formed into a happy, successful and well-integrated basis for the full-sized school of the future. These junior boys now occupied the older school building at Sutherland Grove, while this January the former grammar and technical branches had taken over the splendidly equipped

new buildings beside them. All this had been done without any confusion, and problems of large numbers of dinners, of large numbers of boys changing class-rooms every forty minutes, and of organizing an exceedingly complex yet flexible time-table, had all been overcome completely by patient forethought. In the year 1956, moreover, the School's academic record in public examinations had maintained the steady improvement of past years. In addition two L.C.C. Modern Language Travel Scholarships had been won for 1956, and two again for 1957: Patrick Cassidy and John Davies would thus spend three months studying abroad this summer. Richard Hore had made the W. H. Rhodes Tour of Canada in 1956, and Ian Simons, Head Boy Emeritus, would do so in 1957. Old boys' honours included David Epstein's Wranglership gained at Trinity College, Cambridge; and David White, a boy who had worked his way from a "modern school" category at 11 to the grammar school sixth form and on to the Imperial College of Science, had now obtained first-class honours. The School, the Headmaster believed, had every reason to look to a really promising future in its new and gracious surroundings.

After three delightful pieces by the Choir, Professor Tarrant was called upon to present the prizes. To her, Wandsworth School was a part of her memories of her own town of Wandsworth, and it was right that it should share the borough's own significant motto "We Serve". From her own schooldays, Professor Tarrant recalled the girl who once dared to suggest to a mistress that she had "something better to do" than attend her lessons; but there was in fact nothing more worth doing than playing a full part in the whole life of one's school. She hoped indeed that this wonderful new school would be used and enjoyed to the full by all its pupils, and that they would never feel they had "something better to do" than stay one there to take advantage of it.

Sir Hugh Linstead, M.P., moved the vote of thanks, calling on his own memories of the School over the years; and Dr. Train, Professor Tarrant's successor as London University representative among the Governors, seconded this. His Worship the Mayor thanked the Chairman, not only for his part that evening, but also for his part in the whole organization of the transition of the School. Mrs. Hoare, a local member of the L.C.C., seconded this, summing up the feeling of this meeting, that all Wandsworth watched this new development of their own school with interest and with best wishes for complete success.

Those who received prizes for their diligence in school-work during the year 1955-56 were as follows :—

Form 1 Gamma : R. F. Alder, E. V. Elliott, N. R. E. Fisher, J. K. Robertson, B. V. Sandford, R. C. D. Simons. Form 1 Nu : I. A. Newman. Form 1 Omega : F. R. Spooner. Form 1 Iota : B. Thomas. Form 1 Sigma : K. P. Nebbett.

Form 2 Gamma : F. W. R. Evans, R. C. Hardy, D. A. Parker, J. E. Pinnock. Form 2 Nu : R. A. Young, R. A. Burge. Form 2 Omega : D. C. Lloyd, G. S. Ryan. Form 2 Iota : P. F. Padginton.

Form 3 Pi : M. P. Golding, M. J. Halsey, P. G. Jackaman, B. G. Nelson, R. C. Newman, R. A. Peacock, D. G. R. Poole, D. A. Stewardson. Form 3 Alpha : B. W. Calder. Form 3 Nu : R. D. Ayshford. Form 3 Theta : M. W. Dodd. Form 3 Eta : D. E. Firth, D. K. Forrest. Form 3 Omega : D. P. Brennan.

Form 4 Pi : R. Baker, B. W. Levy, A. L. Reizman-arzi, G. W. Willis. Form 4 Alpha : J. G. F. Parsons, R. C. Williamson. Form 4 Nu : A. G. Williams. Form 4 Theta : D. R. House. Form 4 Eta : B. Blighton, B. J. Wagstaff. Form 4 Omega : M. T. Aplin.

Form 5 Pi : J. D. Carr, P. N. Cassidy, P. J. Drain, R. W. Eeles, J. T. Francis, D. J. Liggitt, M. R. M. Smith. Form 5 Theta: P. Kersey, J. A. Weston, B. J. Wright. Form 5 Gen.A. : M. J. Carr, A. Shearwood. Form 5 Trade A.: G. F. Pearson. Form 5 Trade B.: R. Waterman.

Special prizes for merit in the General Certificate of Education examination in 1956 *were awarded to* :—

At Ordinary Level: H. I. Butnick (Latin), J. D. Carr (Mathematics—Pure and Applied, and Latin), R. J. Carr (English and Latin), P. N. Cassidy (French and Latin), G. P. Douel (French and Mathematics), P. J. Drain (Mathematics, Geography, English, and Biology), D. J. Liggitt (Mathematics—Pure and Applied), R. B. Lloyd (English, French, German, and Mathematics), R. Müller (German and History), C. J. Squires (English Literature, Geography, and Physics).

At Advanced Level: J. W. Boreham (Latin), H. I. Butnick (French), M. J. Douel (Geography), P. L. Eastwood (Applied Mathematics), J. P. Fox (French), R. S. Hore (Mathematics—Pure and Applied), B. Norton (Applied Mathematics), A. E. Preston (History), R. Williamson (Physics and Chemistry).

Other special prize-winners were :—

Form Lower Sixth : D. Ayshford (General Merit), D. B. Cross (General Merit and Geography), B. Johnston (Music), J. R. Marshall (General Merit), P. B. Roberts (General Merit).

Technical Forms : G. E. Thomas (English and Geography), B. J. Wright (English and Technical Drawing), P. Nolan (History), P. H. Stone (Mathematics), J. A. Weston (Science), D. J. Melrose (Art), L. C. Thatcher (Art), B. R. Hanham (Technical Drawing), A. J. Simmonds (Building Construction), P. Kersey (Surveying), R. Waterman (Painting and Decorating), T. Allen (Carpentry and Joinery), P. De La Haye (Plumbing), F. Dale (Brickwork).

Chairman's Prize for Head Boy 1955-56 : P. L. Eastwood.

Wandsworthians' Lodge Prize for Service: D. Ayshford and G. W. C. Wort.

Old Wandsworthians Academic Prize : J. Tudgay.

Semmens Prize for Drama : J. P. Fox and G. W. C. Wort.

Special Prize for Service to Athletics : J. B. Smith.

Special Prize for Canadian Tour : R. S. Hore.

Handwriting Prize : B. F. Jewitt (The Ponsonby Handwriting Trophy went to the former Grammar School team).

The following Trophies were also presented :—

"Parents' Council" shield for cricket : Cromwell House.
"Millar" shield for rugby : Cromwell House.
"Waite" shield for swimming : Morley House.
"Coronation" shield for cross-country : Morley House.
"Marcus Samuel" shield for athletics : Morley House.
"Culverwell" shield for chess : Gibbon House.
"Mayfield" cup for drama : Cromwell House.
"Parents' Jubilee" shield for fives : Gibbon House.
"Couch" shield for work : Pitt House.
"Headmaster's trophy" for the Eisteddfod : Morley House.
Sports championship trophy : Morley House.
Fives championship cup : P. L. Eastwood.
Fencing championship cup : G. P. Squires.

The proceedings ended with the singing of the School Hymn.

K.N.N.

RAILWAYS COME TO WANDSWORTH ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO

This article is condensed from a history study by 4 Alpha into the origin and growth of railways in Britain.
Particular acknowledgement is made to the following for material discovered in the School Library.—

B. CALDER, W. FULLER, K. HANCOCK, P. JACKAMAN, C. MULLIGAN, F. R. SHONS, M. REDMOND.

The Ram Inn, Wandsworth at the junction of York Road and the High Street would seem an unusual spot from which to trace the beginnings of the "Railway Mania" a century ago. Yet, on its wall, embedded in a stone sleeper, a bronze plaque records that in 1803 Parliament passed the first Railway Act authorising the Surrey Iron Railway. The project emerged from the neighbouring "Spread Eagle" tavern where canal builder William Jessop argued the advantages of a horse drawn railway connecting Croydon with his Thames wharf. Each day fifty-five tons of freight and fifty passengers lumbered past the Ram, to Jessop's Basin.

This novel combination of rail angle plate and flanged wheel was almost at once made out of date by the success of a Cornishman—Richard Trevethick who in 1804 made a steam engine to pull fifty tons on rails at Merthyr Tydvil Colliery. For some time Trevethick had been absorbed in steam pumps, similar to those patented by Boulton and Watt, for removing water from his father's mine. Trevethick became the talk of London when four years later he set up in Euston Square a "Catch-me-who-can" railway circus. The public readily paid a penny for six exciting turns round the track at eight miles an hour. Though the inventor went with his engines as far as the mines of Peru, he died penniless. His many inventions have been eclipsed by the greater fame of George Stephenson and his son Robert.

Like his contemporary, William Hedley (of Puffing Billy fame at Whydon Colliery, Newcastle), Stephenson first experimented with eight-mile-an-hour coal hauling engines, linking pit-head with industrial furnace. When he was chosen as engineer for a horse railway planned between Stockton and Darlington, he convinced the promoters of the future of the steam "locomotive".

At the grand opening on 27th September, 1825, "Locomotion I" christened forty miles of track by hauling the amazing load of four hundred and fifty passengers, and six coal and flour waggons. Designer George Stephenson was on the footplate and a horseman waving a red flag went ahead. Incredulous spectators saw Stephenson wave the rider aside, accelerate to fifteen miles an hour and leave the rider behind.

Factory owners saw at once the profit to be earned from cheap and fast transport, and a group offered a prize of £500 for the best locomotive. Stephenson's "Rocket", painted yellow, white and black, with a copper topped chimney and brass boiler dome won the prize at the Rainham Hill Trials near Manchester in 1829.

Almost at once ambitious textile manufacturers commissioned Stephenson to lay a track between Manchester and the port of Liverpool. Assisted by Dixon, Stephenson confounded the pessimists by sinking hundreds of tons of rubble into Chat Moss, a bog across which the track had to pass. Tar barrels served for conduits and slowly there rose above the greedy marsh a track wide enough to bear he rails.

It is significant that the Prime Minister, the famed Duke of Wellington, accompanied by the Rt.-Hon. William Huskisson, leader of the House of Commons, were both present at the opening of the Liverpool line. The Nation was shocked to learn that on this historic occasion sixty-year old Huskisson was run over and killed by the engine. Misgivings were voiced and there were many complaints and predictions of the future of these pestiferous and belching inventions. Canal owners were in gloomy fear of railways, and were finally bought up by them. Property owners sold land across which track was planned at extortionate prices after hard bargaining. In 1834, two hundred and forty-six Acts were passed by Parliament to legalise railway transactions. A new record number of Acts (two hundred and seventy-two) were passed by Parliament in the "mania" year of 1846. The magnetic pull of quick profits had been so great, that many banks and financiers found they had rashly invested too much money, and had insufficient to feed into their factories. There was a crisis, but by 1850 British exports were increased to £197M compared to £69M twenty years before. Cheap machine-made textiles and cheap transport by steam engine and steamship, a tremendous need for more coal and iron, and a lengthening queue of foreign customers for locomotives, rails and trucks, made Britain

the world's workshop.

Stephenson built the first engine to run in Germany, and in France, where our railway navvies were taken by English engineers, the French were amazed to see wheelbarrows moving three hundred weight of soil at a lift. From the point of view of international prestige no country could afford to be without a railway.

In London, the Greenwich Railway opened the year Victoria became Queen. It was "constructed in a form which will render it as a work of art, one of the greatest ornaments in the metropolis". With an eye upon the pocket of the tourist, the Directors not only put on show at Deptford Station "a naval war engine of the torpedo type", but had the manager open the line each day to a bugle fanfare of "See the conquering hero comes". The novelty wore off. The Penny Post was soon delivered by railway mail vans and twelve years after Huskisson's accident railways were thought safe and permanent enough for Queen Victoria to ride from Windsor, to Paddington. Soon she was travelling from King's Cross to Edinburgh, and gave her august name to Victoria Station, the new terminus of the Brighton and South Coast line.

The thrust of the steam engine into the remotest parts of Britain is shown in the diagram below.

1840 —— 1,331 miles.
1850 ———— 6,635 miles.
1880 ———————— 15,310 miles.
1900 ———————————— 18,672 miles.
1920 ———————————————— 23,000 miles.

By the 1850's thousands of miles of track were in use and the population of London began to move beyond the boundaries of the Metropolis into Surrey, Kent and Middlesex. Brighton and the Isle of Wight became fashionable resorts, and the Governors of Eton College looked a little ridiculous for refusing permission for a station to be built nearby.

Railway construction at home—under the River Severn and across highland valleys—created an unrivalled group of bridge builders and engineers whose limitless ingenuity found scope from Cairo to Pekin. One improvement followed another—interlocking points, the water scoop, automatic brakes—and by the turn of the century a train had raced 523 miles from Aberdeen to King's Cross in eight hours forty minutes. The record was smashed a night later by the West Coast Flyer averaging 63.3 m.p.h. on a 540 mile journey taking eight hours thirty-two minutes.

Writing of the railways Lord Macauley, the historian, said "of all inventions, the alphabet and the printing press excepted, those inventions which bridge distance have done most for the civilisation of our species".

In the present era of jet propulsion, Lord Macauley and the Ram Inn, Wandsworth, are witnesses to an age so modern to those who created it, so curious to us.

C.E.W.C. CONFERENCE

On December 6th, 1956, a party of boys from form 3 Pi went to a conference on Australia organised by the C.E.W.C. The conference was held in the Assembly Room at St. Pancras Town Hall.

The conference started at 10.20 a.m., twenty minutes behind schedule, with the chairman, Miss M. Quass, introducing Mr. F. P. Buckley, Agent-General for New South Wales, who opened the meeting. The next item was a film, "Advance Australia", which gave much information on the internal industry and economy of the continent.

When break was over the three prominent speakers gave their lectures on the education, trade and culture, the latter which was given by Mr. Glass was very interesting and included some recordings of aboriginal "Rock 'n Roll".

The afternoon programme began with three films, "Bears at Plays", which aroused cries of ecstasy from the female members of the audience,

the second, "Down in the Forest" had a similar effect. The third "The Bushman Goes Home" told of a bushman's return to his native country after a trip to the city.

Any Questions was perhaps slightly more interesting than the rest of the day as a whole, but even then some of the questions were very simple and superficial. The question put by the School was, "What effect does the Suez crisis have on the trade of Australia?". Though a very good question it did not receive a full answer.

After this came the item which all the audience had awaited with apprehension throughout the day, namely, "Tables Turned", in which the speakers put questions to two panels of boys and girls representing North and South London. This ended as a draw. At the end of this the chairman thanked the speakers and closed the meeting.

A. STYLES, Crom. A, 3 Pi.

A VISIT TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM

What a magnificent sight beheld us when we first set our astonished eyes on the enormous Ionic Pillars which surround the entrance to the British Museum. What splendour and beauty met our gaze when we entered into the great hall.

The first place we went to was the prehistoric room. In this room we saw ancient weapons and tools from the Stone Age which were chipped skilfully to wonderful perfection by hairy hands. We saw relics from the Paleolithic Age to the Neolithic Age. One of the interesting exhibits was a Bronze helmet discovered in the River Thames at Waterloo Bridge.

After looking at these things we went through the Ethnographical Room which contained interesting boxes of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch cleverly whittled arrow heads which mainly came from places like South America and Western Nigeria.

The next place we visited was the Babylonian Room which contained exhibits of Babylonian writing and Egyptian daggers and last but not least there were some seals belonging to this age which were most interesting.

We next wandered into the Egyptian Rooms and the highlight of our visit to the British Museum. In these rooms there is a pre-dynastic man who has been completely preserved due to desiccation in the warm sand. He was most probably buried before 3500 B.C. and is still in a marvellous state of preservation.

Some Greek characters such as Sophocles, Homer, Pericles and also Socrates took up a great deal of our attention. The fabulous Elgin Marbles were a really magnificent sight.

The King's Library, which was built 1823-1826, contains the Codex Sinaiticus and the original version of Alice in Wonderland. The Magna Carta, Nelson's personal Log Book, and Scott's diary, which was found with the bodies in the tent at the South Pole, are also on view in this Library.

Finally, we saw the Mildenhall Treasure which was unearthed at Mildenhall before the last War. This consists of Roman plate and various other articles.

Seeing the Treasure concluded our very interesting and instructive visit to the British Museum.

IAN DONNO, MICHAEL HUDSON, 1 Nu.

A VISIT TO THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

During the half-term holiday I visited the Natural History Museum. I started in the central hall. On the first stand there were stuffed rhinoceroses and hippopotami. There were other animals of ancient origin which are now extinct and have been for many hundreds of years. I saw a stuffed elephant with tusks about ten feet long. After looking round this section I went down into the whale hall and saw an enormous model of the Blue Whale, also a skeleton of a Greenland Whale which was about 23 feet long. It was most interesting to see these huge animals.

Continuing on my way I found myself amongst many huge reptiles; they looked most realistic. It took me quite some time to wander round the museum looking at and reading about the many different things of interest. I must mention the dinosaurus section for one can hardly believe that animals of this type ever existed. I do not think that I would like to have lived in the times of these primitive animals, especially the Diplodocus Carnecrii. The length of its body was 12 ft. 4 in. its head, neck and body were 35 ft. 7 in., its tail was 49 ft. 2 in., the total length being 84 ft. 9 in. There were many things that I did not have time to look at as the museum is a very large place, so I have promised myself another visit soon.

P. HODGES, 1 Nu.

WINTER

In winter, when the fields are white,
And sheep, and cows are in a plight,
The friendly robin hops around,
Engraving foot-prints in the ground.

Although the mighty oak is bare,
The hooting owl has his nest there.
The holly and the mistletoe,
Give our cold land a welcome glow.

The children on their sledges slide,
As fast as on a bob-sleigh ride.
And Christmas joy is in the air,
So sadness, coming now, is rare.

But Winter soon gives way to Spring,
And then the cuckoo starts to sing,
Bright daffodils in bloom appear,
Spring, at last, has come back here.

G. KEEN, 3 Pi, Pb.

VESUVIUS ERUPTS

As the pale, yellow sun broke through the solemn, white clouds the land was very still and silent. Then the volcano sent out a huge column of fire and smoke. The deadly red hot lava ran swiftly down the mountain towards Naples. Thunder-like noises rattled the land as huge pieces of rock hurtled down on the unfortunate victims. The sky was a red and yellow glow, and the country a sea of lava. Smoke billowed over the sea, and the land was as still as the grave again.

DAVID EVERITT, 1 Theta.

A TRAMP

He wore an oval-shaped hat with a number of brightly-coloured feathers sticking out of it in various directions. His complexion was of one who had faced the biting winter winds and storms. He had a bushy, black beard which looked as though it had not been washed for a good month or two. His forehead and round his eyes were deeply wrinkled. His cheeks were lean and hollow.

The shirt he was wearing was light brown in colour, a button was missing from the top of it. The jacket he wore was brown also. His overcoat was black and in the buttonhole was a dead rose. The shoulders of the coat were worn by the constant rubbing of the sack which he carried. The cuffs were worn also. His trousers were grey, and patched at the knees. At the ankles the trousers were tied with string.

His shoes were old with pointed toes, through which his toes protruded. He had no socks on. One of the shoes had the lower part of it tied to the upper with a length of string.

M. BELLAMY, 1 Theta.

"STRONGER ELASTIC"

In order that one looks one's best,
One must make sure one is well dressed;
And one must choose one's clothes with care,
And make sure they will never tear.

Our story is of Harry Flash,
Who, finding he had excess cash,
Went and bought a pair of jeans,
And donned them by the quickest means.

So then he leapt into the street,
With jeans, and clogs upon his feet;
Alas, his jeans were far too tight,
For they were split from left to right.

They tripped him up, as down they fell:
He hit his nose, let out a yell.
So sped he home like Venus fair,
With only shoes and shirt to wear.

His nose turned red, and so did he,
As down the High Street he did flee;
The moral is, follow the rule:
There is no substitute for Wool.

R. ALAN PEACOCK, Cd, 4 Pi.

THE SPANISH ARMADA

If you'll wait for a moment I'll tell you a story
Concerning some men who brought England great glory.
They were brave, they were bold, there was nothing they feared,
And now, I will tell how they singed Philip's beard.

'Twas a night long ago, I don't think you'll remember,
I'm not sure, but I think 'twas late September.
Our hero was sailing quite close to Cadiz
When, he saw the Dons building ships bigger than his.

So, taking some ships that had gone much too far,
He filled them with straw and with hay and with tar.
Then, setting alight to his little floats,
He sailed them with joy at the Spaniard's boats.

When Philip received the news full of dread,
He sent to Elizabeth for Francis's head,
When Francis off Plymouth did sail into sight,
The Queen was so glad that she made him a knight.

This is the story of Drake's "bravada"
And how he burned the Spanish Armada.

D. T. SNELL, 2 Gramma, Pitt C.

THE ENCOUNTER WITH MOBY DICK

The look-out high up on the mast
Had sighted Moby Dick at last.
The rowing boats sped towards the whale,
Harpoons were thrown at Ahab's hail.
The whale, although he was gigantic,
Began to fret, and then grew frantic.

As he rushed across the sea
Some of the rowing boats broke free.
The taut line, breaking under strain,
Relieved the whale of one more pain,
And Moby Dick then turned about
Tipping the crews in the boats right out.

The whale so great smashed Ahab's boat
And Ahab along its side did float.
Grabbing a broken harpoon line,
He climbed up to the whale's spine,
And drawing a harpoon from the tail
He stabbed at the heart inside the whale.

It floundered—lines twisted—Ahab was bound
To the mammal his vengeance had urged him to hound
And when the whale broke surface again
It rammed the ship with might and main.
The "Pequod" sank, with crew and sail
Except for the seaman who told the tale.

R. A. YOUNG, Pc, 3 Alpha.

THE DUSTMAN

With a cry of "Dust-oh!"
He comes your way
In his leather jacket
With dust made grey.

He empties your bins
Then carries away
The rubbish not needed
To earn his pay.

R. H. JONES, Ma, 3 Alpha.

STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM

Of all the phrases in the English language, I think the above is the most mouth-watering. But alas, by the time the punnets of strawberries have arrived at our Wandsworth market they are far from their first freshness. So last year I resolved to grow my own.

My father had given me a plot in the garden in which to grow whatever I liked, and in this, after preparing the soil, I planted my strawberry roots. Anxiously I waited for the coalman to come along our road, because his cart is pulled by a horse from whom I hoped for a contribution to my plot's fertility. Gathering this proved a very embarrassing business, since some of my friends and my sister would watch me and make ribald comments.

Having done my best for my plants, I then relaxed, leaving Mother Nature to do her part, and this she did, very well indeed, in so far as the plants produced masses of luxuriant leaves. Eagerly I awaited the appearance of the first little white flower, that emblem of our English nobility. At last several appeared, which later dropped off, leaving behind the hard green seed-boxes. "Aha!" I thought, "we are nearly there." I could almost taste their sweetness. Daily they increased in size, and before long they were actually turning red.

But this was the long awaited signal. The slugs and birds spread the word around, and before long my beautiful strawberries were reduced to two dozen or so.

"They shall not have these," I said to myself, and carefully popped them into jam jars laid on their sides. "They will be just right by the week-end," I told my mother. "Don't forget to order the cream from the milkman."

But I had not reckoned with my small sister and her horde of marauding pals. The next day I rushed home from school to gloat over my strawberries, and was just in time to see a flurry of little girls rushing away from my plot, with tell-tale stains on their chins.

Never before in my life had I been so angry. For a while I gave up the idea of growing them next year. But then, after all, perhaps I shall be luckier . . . .

D. LLOYD, Gd, 3 Alpha.

THE SEA Throughout centuries of human life man has never been able completely to conquer the masterful ways of the sea; its majesic beauty has captured men's desires and has called them to brave the perils of the deep.

Often at night the wind is calm and gently rippling waves shimmer in the haze of the full moon. The inky blackness is broken with diamond-like reflections of the stars in the sky above. When the sea is quiet it stretches forth the hand of friendship to all who sail and fish in its waters giving life and shelter to all within its fathomless depths. To the underworld of living creatures who dwell in the trough of the sea, this barnacled and green world is their home.

With a lightning change the sea can twist its smiling face in a contortion of treacherous anger endangering all who dare brave its path. The sunset breezes turn to violent gale force winds, that shrill and shriek to a frightening crescendo as the mountainous waves leap and roar and the spray lashes up against the rocks. The cry of a ship in distress echoes through the darkness but all efforts to help are useless until the storm subsides, perhaps having taken the lives of many gallant sailors in its wrath. Suddenly an unseen hand gently calms the wind, and soothes the waves gently to sleep, and as dawn is breaking and the sun is rising above the horizon the sea returns once more to its peaceful serenity. The tiny waves lap lightly as drifted leaves on an endless plain upon the shore.

D. NICHOLS, 2 Iota.

THE BARROW BOY

"Ripe tomatoes! Ripe tomatoes!
Come and get 'em 'ere!"
—"I've seen better on a rubbish dump,
And yours are much too dear!"
"Lovely roses! Lovely roses!
They smell a bloomin' treat!"
—"The pigs won't even smell 'em,
'Cos they smell worse than their feet!"

But the coster keeps on crying
And the people keep on buying
And most people never seem to care
If the barrow boy is lying.

"New potatoes! New potatoes!
Tuppence for a pound!"
—"Your spuds are bloomin' lousy,
Look, they're rollin' on the ground."
"Brussel sprouts! Brussel sprouts!
Brussels at their best!"
—"You got 'em from a dustbin,
'Cor, I might 'ave guessed."

But the coster only grins,
'Cos he couldn't care two pins
And he knows that all these folks are wrong
'Cos he never really sins.

"Long bananas! Short bananas!
'Ave 'em 'ow you like!"
—"I don't want your bruised bananas,
But I want to take the 'mike'!"
"Rosy apples! Rosy apples!
Red and sweet and firm!"
—"Look at that one on the top,
I can see a bloomin' worm."

But the coster only swears
'Cos he never says his prayers
And not one of all those people
Ever wonders if he cares.

M. J. NORMAN, Pa, and others of Form 3 Alpha.

THE BOAT RACE

"Hurrah!" cheers the crowd,
"They're off! They're off!"
Some cry aloud,
Then silence, not a move.
"Why? What's gone wrong?"
But no, nothing's gone wrong.
No, nothing.
Oxford striving hard to lead,
With Cambridge now halfway;
Launches come up close behind,
Looking—ah! so gay!
Cambridge are ahead in the race:
"They've won! They've won!
So many times,
And yet they've won again!"
Oxford supporters look so dour,
Cambridge supporters hug themselves.
Cambridge come out,
Each man grins,
Poor Oxford looking grim.

DAVID A. LOWMAN, 1 Iota.

NATURE

Nature is a lovely thing,
Bringing flowers in the Spring;
Crocus, snowdrop, bluebell—hue
Yellow, white, delicate blue.

Lambs are frisking in the fields,
Cows are having grassy meals,
When the Summer comes in June
And bees hum their little tune.

Summer fades, Autumn appears,
And leaves fall like gentle tears;
Flowers droop and colours go,
Winter comes with pure white snow.

Mother Nature then is stern,
Snow and ice on ground so firm,
Trees all glisten with the snow,
Looking pretty all aglow.

MICHAEL J. WOODHOUSE, 1 Iota.

DRENCHED TO THE SKIN

One of the most amusing sides of school life, I consider, are the showers which we have after every P.E. lesson.

I well remember my first experience of them. Being something of a tenderfoot at the time, and eager to appear brave and undaunted, I plunged in regardless. I was not prepared for the form of Chinese torture which followed. Cold water was jettisoned at me from every angle. Now being somewhat older and wiser, I wait for the cold water to get clear of the pipes.

The showers are very exhilarating and most of us are very fond of them. Through the ages there have been many forms of bathing, such as the Roman baths and Cleopatra's style of bathing in asses' milk, but I prefer the School showers to any of them!

Whoever said, "Schooldays are the happiest days of your life," surely knew what he or she was talking about.

DAVID HILLMAN, 1 Iota.

A TRIP TO NORFOLK

It was overcast, and there was an irritating drizzle falling on the morning of Wandsworth School's outing to Norwich and the Norfolk Broads last summer.

My brother and I were soon dressed and had finished our breakfast and were helping to prepare the lunch which we would eat on the train. After several anxious minutes' wait for a bus, and a journey by tube, we arrived at King's Cross just in time to board the train with our other friends. It was a long one as other schools were going on the same trip.

The whistle screeched and the train began to gather speed along the dark, dreary station. As we left my friends collected many train numbers, and we all passed sweets round. During the journey we mostly gossiped, looked out of the windows, and made excursions to the front of the train and back.

We reached Norwich Thorpe station at about one o'clock, and found that it had stopped raining, so under the supervision of a master we visited the fine Cathedral where we stayed for some time admiring the beautiful craftsmanship. After this we visited the museum, which contained mostly antiques and stuffed birds, animals, and fish. One object of interest was a glass-sided bee-hive in which the queen bee and her subjects dwelt.

Eventually we arrived back at the station—with sore feet—and boarded the train which was to take the party to Wroxham broads, a short journey away. At Wroxham we were ushered into five hundred-seater cabin cruisers. The engines sprang into life, and the large but graceful boats slowly put-putted their way through the dark green water in which swam large fish, while many an artful angler tested his skill against them.

On the tour the sun was shining brilliantly all the time, which was suprising considering we had left London in drizzling rain. Many coots and moorhens swam quickly amongst the reeds and brilliant yellow water lilies which grew with other unfamilier flowers at the water's edge. There were many other people on the channels, mostly in small yachts which glided easily through the inviting water. It all had to end too soon, however, and we were sitting in the stuffy train again.

The train journey seemed longer this time but dusk was falling, and everyone was glad to rest after an excellent day. My brother and I arrived home at ten o'clock, tired and thankful that there was no school the next day.

J. OLLERENSHAW, 3 Alpha, Gibbon D.

HOUSE NOTES

CROMWELL

This term has an air of anticipation about it, anticipation of the result of the annual Eisteddfod, of Sports Day on April 3rd and of the Inter-house rugby matches. Towards the beginning of term a Cromwell House meeting was conducted by our new House Master, Mr. Lincé. With the additional boys the House with its seven sets has attained some 200 Cromwellians and one can hope they will soon show their

talents in the various sections of the Eisteddfod. At the meeting R. M. Bone was appointed House Chess Captain and E. J. Hemmerlein was made House Athletics Captain and organiser for the coming Sports Day. I would like, on behalf of the entire House, to wish these boys every success in their terms of office. Eisteddfod Organisers were also elected: D. Ayshford with B. J. Coleman to produce the House Play, C. M. Burnett to train and present the Speech Choir and J. W. Sharp to enter the music contestants. To see that these boys kept the rehearsals going and put their heart into their respective tasks, M. J. Cowling was enlisted. His job in many ways was the most arduous.

As far as rugby is concerned at the time of writing only one match has been played, against Gibbon. This was captained by C. M. Newson. The match, Newson's first match as House Captain, was won 8—0.

As a last note I should like to congratulate R. Müller and M. R. M. Smith on being appointed Sub-prefects, and R. Baker and E. J. Hemmerlein Pro-prefects.

JOHN SHARP, Ca, U6a.

GIBBON Owing to the fact that the Cross-Country run was unfortunately delayed last term, there was no report on the result in the last House Notes. We, however, fared extremely well and finished second to Pitt in the senior race, and the juniors finished third to Morley and Pitt. Under the able captaincy of P. G. Lewis, the race as a whole ended with Gibbon taking third place to Morley. Some of the individual performances are worthy of note, especially in the seniors, A. A. Bonner and P. G. Lewis, and in the juniors, J. H. Halliday and R. Smith.

In diligence, last term, we came first; and, I am sure, this is the first step towards winning the much coveted diligence shield.

The long-awaited Senior Rugby match against Cromwell took place this term, in which we were expected to be outplayed and overwhelmed by the stronger Cromwell side. The "pundits" proved to be wrong, as they usually are. Although we eventually lost by 8pts to 0, the half-time score of 3pts. to 0 shows how keenly fought this match turned out to be. Our heartiest thanks go to D. Birkenshaw for the great amount of effort he has put into his work as captain; and the spirited way in which he has led his team shows his real ability as a leader.

Preparations for the Eisteddfod are well under way and the festival will have been contested and won by the time of publication. The following boys were elected to their respective offices: G. W. Willis is in charge of speech; A. G. Williams, music organiser; while G. P. Douel and J. T. Francis are co-producing the House play, "Journey's End". C. Bowyer is filling in the all-embracing job of House co-ordinator to perfection. By the time this report is read I am confident that Gibbon will have done its best to dominate all sections of the Eisteddfod; and with the whole-hearted co-operation from all members of Gibbon, we hope to have won the long-awaited "laurels", which have eluded us so in the past.

J. FRANCIS.

MORLEY Owing to the opening of the new school at the beginning of this term, nothing much has been done in the way of House activities until quite recently. However at the meeting of the House in February (in the Main Hall) several representatives were elected to take charge of the various activities in the forthcoming Eisteddfod. The House play this year was Flecker's Hassan, under the very able direction of R. Hore and G. Wort.

In the field of sport, the senior rugby XV, led by J. Davies, has been twice successful, against Pitt and against Gibbon; the score against Pitt being 37—8, and against Gibbon 50—3. The junior XV, however, have not been so successful, and in their first match against Pitt the senior score was almost reversed. Also in the near future is the athletics meeting and if

everyone is as enthusiastic as last year Morley may well repeat their splendid victory under the capable leadership of R. Evans.

Finally we welcome all new members to the House and hope that the inevitable row of victories during the coming months will do much to encourage them.

P. FOULDS.

PITT We extend a hearty welcome to all boys in the sets, Pitt E, F and G, who were based at Garratt Lane and who are now united with us in one main school. We welcome also the tutors of these sets, Mr. F. W. Guttridge, Mr. G. V. Moss and Mr. D. J. Smith.

At the end of last term Morley House won the Cross-Country Shield from Pitt by a very narrow margin. Our team, under the very able captaincy of R. W. Hancock, put up a very good performance. In the senior event, R. W. Hancock, G. L. Wilson, J. McD. McClure, B. W. Calder and R. Hancock finished second, third, fourth, eighth and twelfth respectively, and B. A. Burge, T. R. Perry and G. C. Cope came sixth, seventh and eighth in the junior event. On aggregate it was found that Morley had beaten Pitt by nine points.

Since the last issue of The Link, P. D. Harrington, R. T. J. Moody, H. Potter and J. McD. McClure have been appointed sub-prefects. The following boys, from the Fifth Form, have been made pro-prefects: K. H. W. Denyer, R. W. Hancock, M. Beard, M. E. Duck, D. W. Milward and H. W. Smith. We congratulate them all on their well-deserved appointments.

The election of officers for the Eisteddfod took place at the beginning of the term. C. G. Christodoulou was elected for Music, for the third successive year, B. R. Harding for Speech and P. N. Cassidy for Drama. R. T. J. Moody was appointed the co-ordinator for the sets A, B, C and D, and F. M. Carter the co-ordinator for Pitt E, F and G. At the time of writing, the preparations for the Eisteddfod are well under way.

Up to the present time there has only been one Senior House Rugby match, which was played against Morley. The result was rather disappointing, since we were trounced by thirty points to eight. Nevertheless, we entertain the highest hopes of defeating the other two houses. In the Second Form Rugby, Pitt beat Morley by six points to five, and in the Third Form Rugby, we recorded a handsome victory of twenty-four points to nil.

Congratulations to I. H. Simons, Head Prefect Emeritus, who has been most fortunate and deserving in being awarded a W. H. Rhodes Trust Canadian Tour in the summer.

Diligence is not up to the high standard which we attained last year, when we won the Diligence Shield. If, however, everyone works much harder, we shall not have any great difficulty in retaining the Shield.

Finally, the four houses will be competing, next term, for the Swimming and Cricket Trophies. We therefore expect a special effort from all members of the House to help regain not only the Swimming Trophy, which it was customary a few years back for Pitt to hold, but also the Cricket Trophy, which has escaped us for several years.

P. N. CASSIDY.

We offer to Cassidy our congratulations on his being awarded an L.C.C. Modern Language Travel Scholarship for three months study and travel in France this year—an excellent opportunity, and it is the more to Cassidy's credit that it has been awarded to him in his first year in the Sixth.—I.H.S.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

C.E.W.C. SOUTH-WEST LONDON GROUP

The South-west London Group of the C.E.W.C. have held two meetings this term at the time of writing, and a third, to be addressed by Mr. T. Lawson, will have taken place before this article appears in print.

The first meeting took the form of a film show on the evening of Thursday, January 31st, at Battersea Grammar School. Two very moving films about refugees were shown and, kindly lent by Mr. Acland, a film on an Indian fishing village. The meeting was well attended by affiliated schools, there being about seventy-five pupils all told.

The next meeting, at St. Martin's High School, was a social, the primary motive of which was to interest sceptics in the activities of the C.E.W.C. There was again a good attendance and the evening was very successful. Games, dancing, jiving to Archbishop Tennyson's School Skiffle Group, a U.N. quiz and refreshments were all provided for the moderate price of a shilling.

Looking ahead, it is hoped during the summer to hire a boat and run a trip up the Thames for sixth forms.

Attendances at all but social occasions from this School are not very good and it is hoped that boys will realise that hearing talks and watching films can also be enjoyable social occasions as well as being educational. Remember, fifth and sixth forms are invited to all meetings.

P. J. DRAIN.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY

(Subject of a meeting of the Engineering Society, March 4th, 1957.)

It is interesting to look back to the year 1700 and attempt to visualize the conditions under which the "Cornish Engine" was developed. England was then an uncomfortable place in which to live. Roads were few and poorly constructed. To go by coach was a method of travel of indescribable discomfort. Passengers were jolted almost into insensibility as the crude carriages clambered in and out of pot-holes, over rocks and through sloughs extending sometimes for twenty miles.

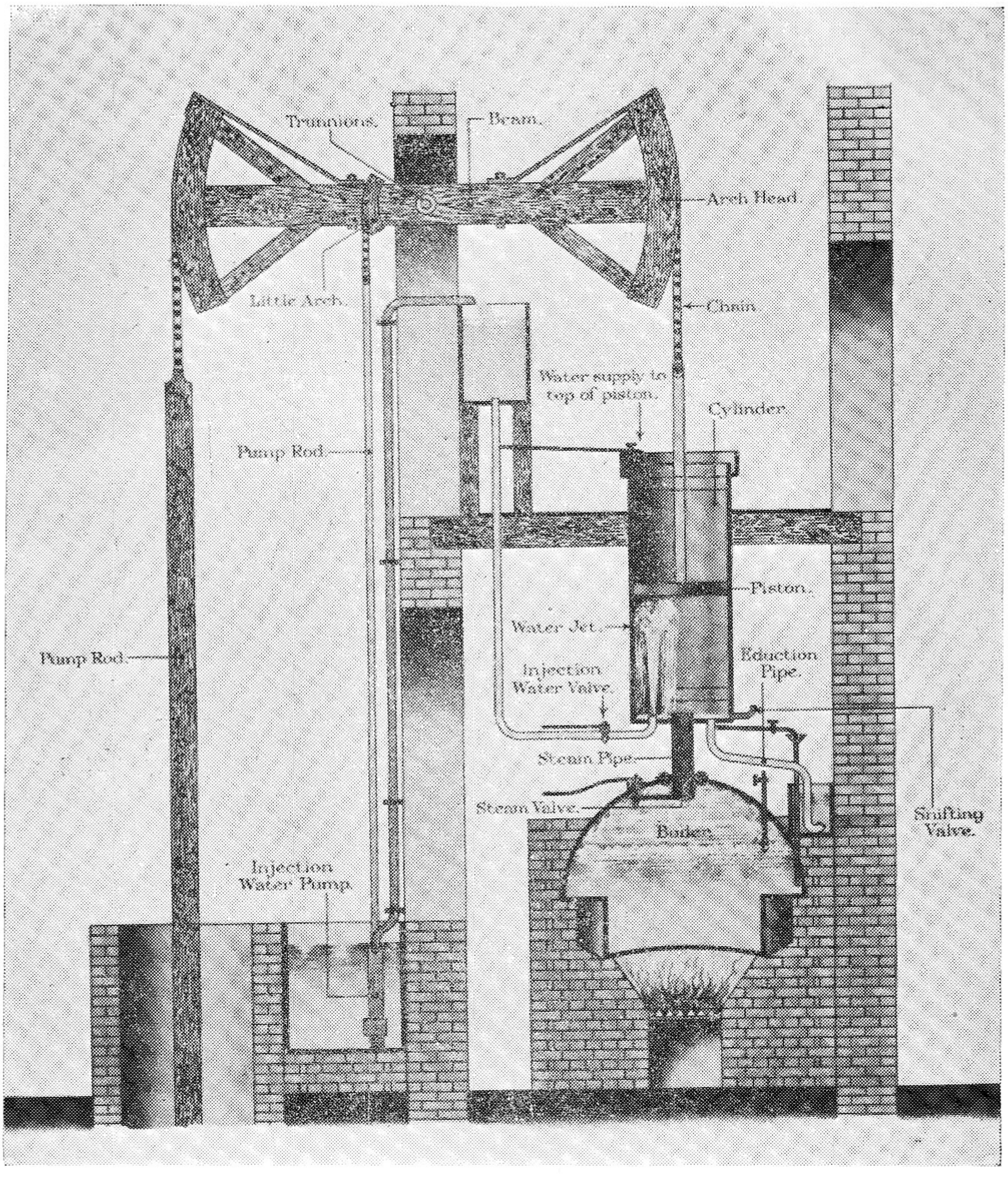
These transport difficulties hindered engineering progress and caused the engineers of the day to develop only those devices for which their own area had need. Thus in Cornwall and Devon, where there was much mining for tin and copper, the call was for pumps to clear the flooded workings. Thomas Savery, a mining engineer of Modbury in Devon, in 1702 set up in the City of London the first factory in the world to manufacture steam engines for pumping purposes. Savery's engine depended upon the creation of a vacuum in a large receiver. The vacuum was formed by filling the receiver with low-pressure steam and suddenly cooling it with cold water. Thus a vacuum was formed by the rapid condensation of the steam. A pipe led from the receiver to the water in the mine and by opening a valve to this pipe, water was drawn up into the receiver until the vacuum had been relieved. These very simple engines, worked by hand, had a limited use but would not deal with large quantities of water nor very great depths.

Thomas Newcomen, a blacksmith of Dartmouth, who lived only 15 miles from Savery, had made parts for Savery's engine and thus knew of his progress. Employing a principle demonstrated in 1690 by Papin, Newcomen made use of a piston and cylinder and created the vacuum under the piston inside the cylinder. This drew the piston down with considerable force. The illustration shows his engine and its principle clearly.

Newcomen and his partner Calley erected their first engine at Dudley Castle in 1712. There invention grew famous and copies were built in several European countries. Owing to the continual gain and loss of heat by the cylinder walls and piston head through the repeated injection and condensation of steam at each stroke, the engine was not efficient and consumed a great deal of coal. Nevertheless, although clumsy, the "common engine" as it came to be called, did valuable work and gave Britain the lead in this field for many years.

Even as British engineers gave to the world the first truly self-acting steam engine in the way we have seen, so to-day they lead the world in the manufacture of nuclear reactors for power stations in many countries.

May we, in conclusion, invite all who are interested in this subject either as regards the full-size product or the model, to come along to the meetings of the Engineering Society on alternate Mondays in the Engineering Laboratory.



(Reproduced by kind permission of the Science Museum—Crown Copyright.)

This diagram shows a typical atmospheric pumping engine, as made by Newcomen, in section, with the piston in the middle of the downward or working stroke. Steam is generated at atmospheric pressure in the boiler and fills the cylinder during the upword stroke of the piston. The steam valve is then closed and the steam is condensed by a jet of cold water causing a vacuum under the piston. The atmospheric pressure acting on the top of the piston forces it down, hence the name "atmospheric" engine, and this constitutes the working stroke. The piston is raised again by the overbalancing weight of the pump-rods.

THE FENCING CLUB

Captain : K. S. Kreuchen.
Vice-Captain : J. Tarkowski.
Secretary : R. Baker.

The meetings of the Club have continued to take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Support of the Club has been very good. The gymnasium in the old building is now used exclusively for fencing. The larger store room is a great advantage. Dinner-time fencing has been started and is receiving encouraging support.

The Club has been very fortunate indeed to obtain the services of Professor Antonio Cipolla who is one of the finest fencing instructors in the world. The professor was for many years a pupil of Professor Bertram who trains fencers of Olympic standard. The methods of the new instructor are already beginning to raise the standard of Wandsworth fencing.

Since the last issue of The Link, the Club has had successful matches against Lycée Français and King's College School. The Old Boys' match has now become a regular fixture and one of the highlights of the fencing season. The last match was very exciting with some good fencing and resulted in a draw, eight bouts all. So much interest has been shown by the former fencers of Wandsworth School that an Old Boys' Fencing Club has been organized by G. P. Squires. It now meets regularly at the School on Wednesday evenings. The first fixture of the Spring Term was against our old rival, St. Paul's School. The overall result was a victory for us by 17 bouts to 15. This was a very pleasing win against one of the strongest fencing schools in London. Other fixtures of this term include matches against Dulwich College, Drayton Manor School and Brentwood School. There are also the House Fencing Championships and the School Individual Foil Competition. The results of both these competitions will be included in the next Fencing Club report.

R. Baker, Cd, 5 Pi.

THE LONDON SCHOOLBOYS' FOIL COMPETITION—1957

This championship was again held at the A.F.A. Headquarters in Tenterden Street. The School, as usual, entered a large number of fencers in both the junior and senior sections.

The senior competition was very hard fought and there was a great deal of excellent fencing. Of the nine Wandsworth fencers entered in this section, five reached the second round, N. C. Bishop, P. H. Stretch, M. P. Sanders and M. J. Mason being knocked out in the first round. C. Green and P. T. Libby, fencing gallantly and skilfully, were very unlucky to be knocked out in the second round. K. S. Kreuchen, J. W. Tarkowski and R. Baker were promoted to the third round. These fencers by their exceptional performances won great credit for the School. Unfortunately, the competition in the third round was very severe and all three fencers were knocked out.

Four promising young fencers were entered in the junior competition. G. S. Ryan and D. J. Morrison were knocked out in the first round and A. J. R. Berry in the second round. M. Ginn, a fencer who had had no previous experience, fenced magnificently and survived to the semi-final. He was eventually knocked out by the fencers who took the first, second and third places in the competition. The junior championship was of an exceptionally high standard.

Though there were no really brilliant performances such as G. P. Squires's in the former competition, the School's overall result was much better than in previous years. Wandsworth fencers are reaching the higher rounds in greater numbers and we hope for even better results in future years.

R. Baker, Cd, 5 Pi.

FISHING CLUB

Since our last contribution to The Link the number of fishing excursions has been reduced mainly because of bad weather. On the few occasions when fishing was possible, outings were arranged and some good fish were caught, such as a good bag of perch at Bell Weir near Staines on live bait, some fish scaling three-quarters of a pound each. At Runnymede N. Harrison caught a chub weighing one and a half pounds on maggot bait. P. B. Elliot caught a reasonable sized mullet using mussels as bait off Bournemouth Pier. During half term visits were made to the gravel pits, where fair catches of perch, bream, and small roach were had using worms and maggots as bait.

The Club is always open to welcome new members who have a keen interest in the sport.

R. A. MASSEY, *Hon. Secretary.*
MR. E. W. GEE, *President.*

FIVES CLUB

Captain : R. S. Hore.
Secretary : G. W. C. Wort.

The end of last term marked the half-way stage in the Marchant Cup competition and the School Team, after winning three out of their six matches, were in second place. So far this term they have won two out of four matches played.

v. Sloane	Won	178—95
v. St. John's	Lost	80—180
v. St. Marylebone	Lost	127—165
v. Henry Thornton	Won	178—80

During the early part of this term we formed 2nd and 3rd Fives Teams in order to give more boys the opportunity of taking part in and gaining experience by competitive matches, but unfortunately both teams narrowly lost. The boys in the second team are A. A. Ahga, P. N. Cassidy, D. Liggitt, R. Lloyd, and the third team consisted of D. Ayshford, E. W. Burnham, B. Johnston and G. W. Wort, on this occasion B. Barlow who would have captained the second team was needed in the first team.

The individual championships are well under way but at the moment it is impossible to say who will be this year's champion. Owing to added difficulties due to our moving into the new school the house matches will not start until next term.

G. WORT, U6Sc, Md.

THE INTER-SIXTH SOCIETY NOTES

The first meeting this term took the form of a half-day conference on "The American and British Theatre" at Mayfield School, on 19th February, at 2.30 p.m. Miss Margaret Webster, the famous actress and producer in London and New York, gave a talk on "The Theatre in the Twentieth Century". After this humorously informative talk, there was a division into discussion groups to formulate questions for the Brains Trust, in which Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Miss Webster, and Miss Pamela Frankau, the novelist, took part.

The other function this term was the Annual Dance, held at our School. It was extended to the other Inter-Sixth Society group. We must thank Mrs. Shons, the members of the Parents' Association and the kitchen staff, who assisted us with the refreshments. Thanks are also due to all those who helped us with the organisation of the dance.

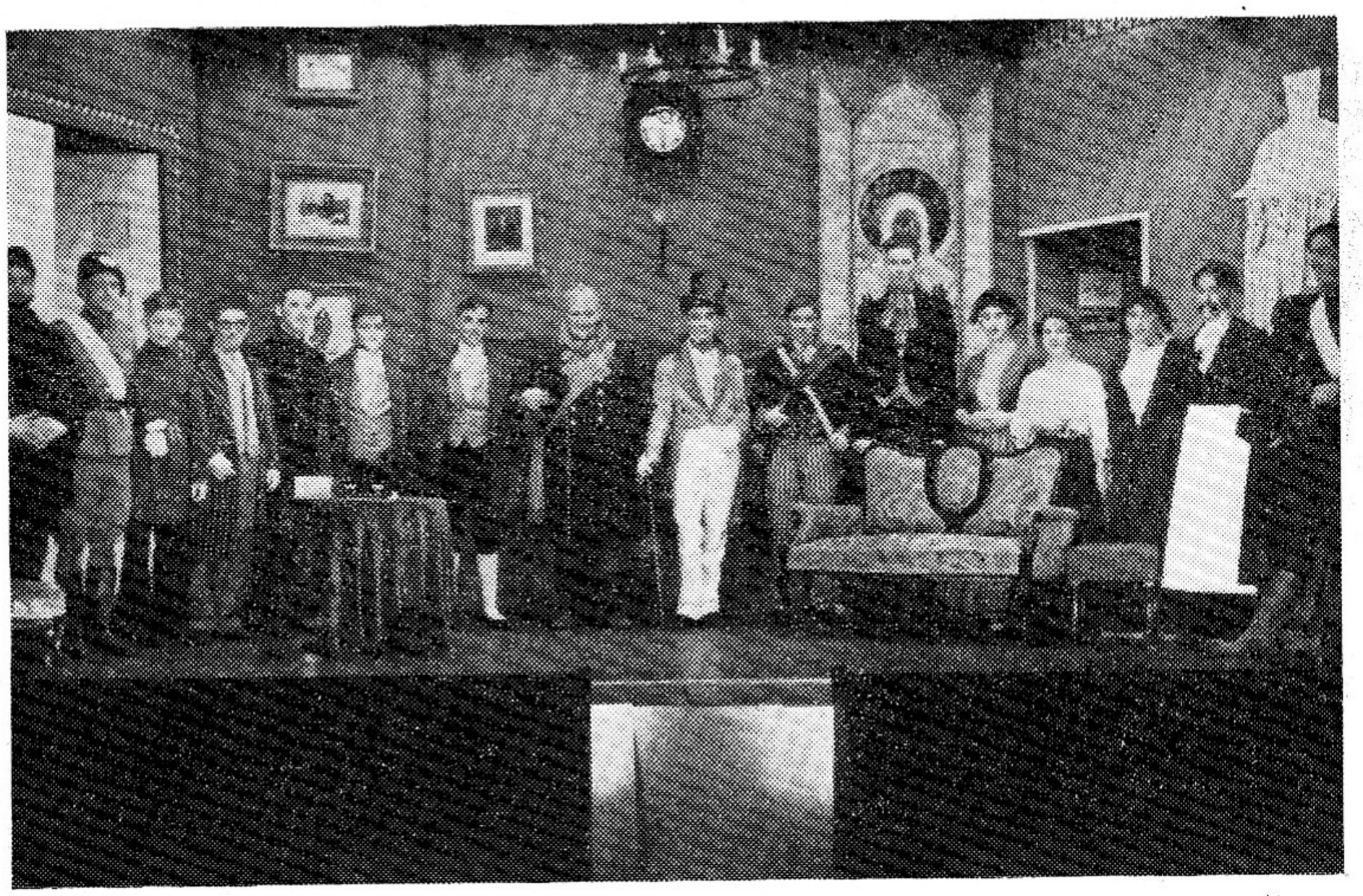
In the Summer Term there will be the Annual General Meeting and also a talk on a scientific subject not yet decided.

The meetings so far this year have met with considerable success and response from the members of our Sixth Form. We hope that this will continue.

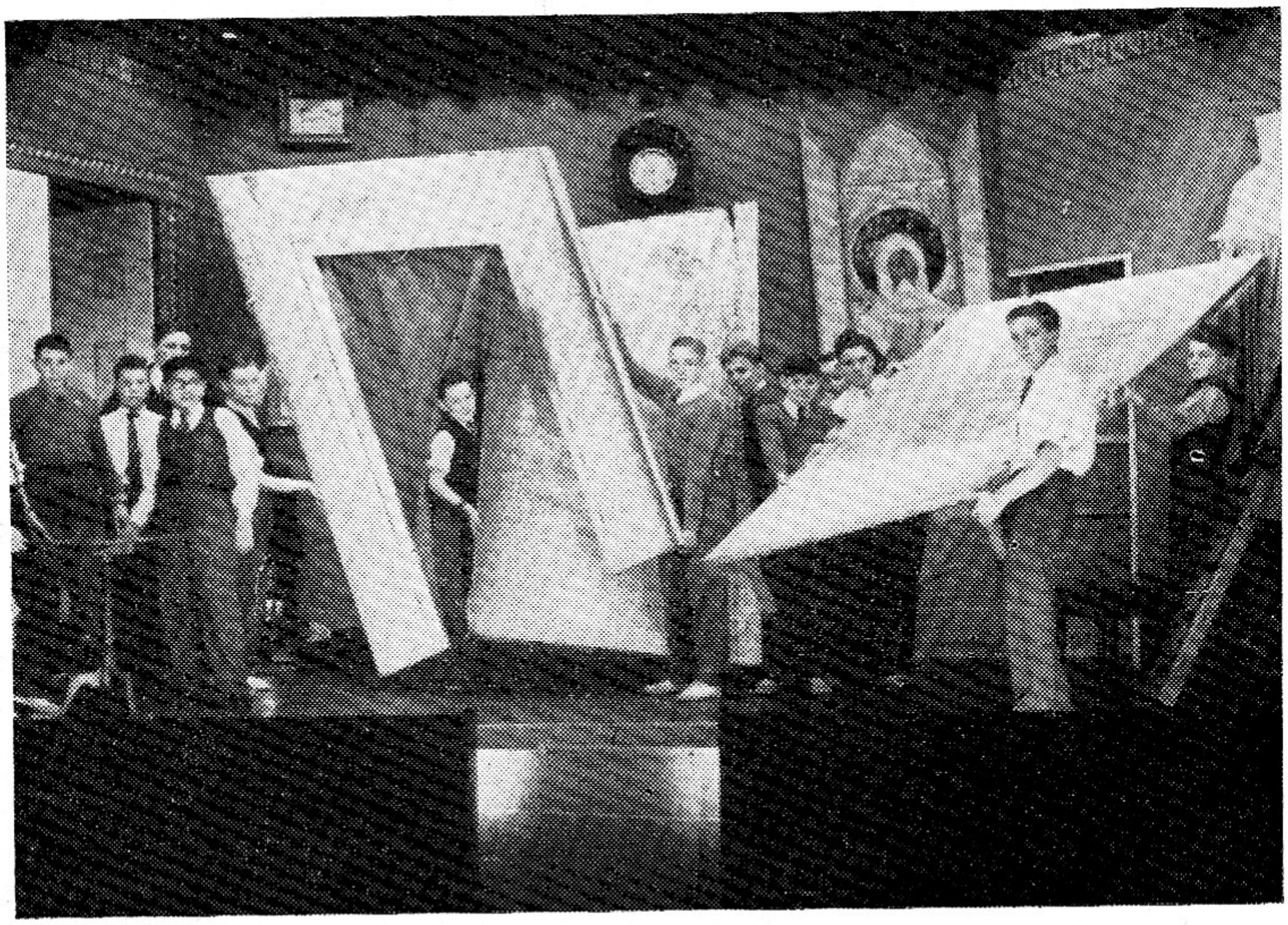
J. T. FRANCIS.
G. P. DOUEL.

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

Wandsworth School Play, Christmas 1956



THE CAST *(from left to right)* : P. N. T. Gillingham, R. S. Hore, P. D. Florence, R. M. Bone, R. B. Lloyd, P. N. Cassidy, P. J. Drain, A. E. Preston, J. W. Sharp, C. M. Burnett, G. W. C. Wort, A. W. Atkinson, J. H. Cousins, J. A. Lally, G. W. Willis, D. W. Rotchell.



SOME MEMBERS OF THE STAGE TEAM *(from left to right)* : A. L. Austin, L. J. Martin, D. W. Ayshford, R. B. Seneviratne, S. R. Kneebone, J. J. Harding, R. G. Twyman, R. Knight, K. T. Veal, P. R. Leverick, L. A. Cooke, B. J. Coleman, M. A. Burriss.

LITERARY AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Society has been meeting, as usual, on Tuesdays this term. A new venture now being tried is lunch-time meetings on Tuesdays as well as after School.

The first meeting held was a reading of Dylan Thomas's "Under Milk Wood". The meeting was made particularly interesting by some records of the B.B.C. performance lent by Mr. Waters.

The other activities of the Society have taken the form of visits to the Old Vic. The Sixth Form have visited "Two Gentlemen of Verona", and other parties have visited "The Merchant of Venice", and "Antony and Cleopatra".

Whilst we regret that we have not been able to hold more meetings, owing to the work necessitated by the move into the new building, we have planned a number of interesting meetings for next term. We hope, therefore, that the members of the School will continue to support the Society with their usual enthusiasm.

A. PRESTON, U6A, Ma.
R. CARR, U6A, Pd.

MODERN LANGUAGE SOCIETY

The Society has held two more meetings. On 15th November, we were invited to Mayfield, where we drank a cup of tea while trying to find out by skilful questioning, some of it in French or German, what was written on the label which had been pinned on our back. This helped to mix up guests and hosts, and provided each of us with a partner for the (for some of us) all too short dance which followed. Then followed a number of items on the stage: scenes from "L'Avare" and from "Minna von Barnhelm"; songs by Mr. Beilharz (from Emmanuel School), by the French Assistante of Mayfield and by the Mayfield girls, a quiz, and a talk in French by B. R. Harding.

On 21st February, we welcomed fifteen girls and four mistresses to a Drama Competition—so-called. Five groups of boys and girls sat round five separate tables in Hall One and prepared a play-reading under the guidance of a master. One German scene, and four French scenes were then presented. No prizes were offered, but the result was entertaining.

A.M.L.

THE RAILWAY CLUB

After a term of inactivity the Club got off to a good start with a lively discussion on the relative merits of steam, diesel and electric locomotion on February 7th. The speakers were Mr. Bacchus, P. J. Drain and P. G. Lewis. The Club generally favoured steam and electric power.

At the next meeting, on the 11th, Mr. Bacchus gave an interesting talk on his railway experiences in Scotland.

A week later P. J. Drain gave a talk on "O" gauge model railways with special reference to the one in his own garden. The lure of a working "O" gauge steam locomotive, laid on with the help of P. G. Lewis, illustrating the talk proved irresistible to many and we had an attendance of well over forty, one of the largest on record.

On February 28th F. S. Styles gave a talk on trams. This was followed by a discussion on signalling.

By the time this appears in print we shall have had five more meetings and, we hope, a successful Eisteddfod Model Railway Exhibition. Coupled with this the Club hopes, as soon as space is available, to build a "OO" layout in the School. With a bit of luck work should start next term.

P. J. DRAIN.

RUGBY

FIRST XV

Captain : C. M. Newson. *Vice-Captain :* J. T. Davies.
Secretary : J. W. S. Kaminski.

Since the last report in the magazine, the 1st XV has played 14 matches, of which it has won four. The team has had some very close results and in a couple of cases might be considered unlucky to have lost.

The conditions throughout have favoured forward play, and the pack has played very weil together. J. R. Marshall, who was the hooker, was sorely missed after leaving at Christmas, but R. T. J. Moody has acquitted himself well in the vacant position. Other outstanding forwards have been C. M. Newson, the captain, and A. J. Thrower, who both particularly excel in the line-outs.

The main weakness has once again been in the three-quarters, though they have greatly improved since last term. This improvement has mainly been due to the fact that we have at last found a permanent fly-half, B. A. Cox, who shows great promise in this position. They have not had a great many chances of playing open, attacking football, owing to the muddy conditions, but in the one game where the conditions were favourable to open football, that is in the match against Mitcham, they proved very dangerous. In this match the School considerably reduced the margin by which they were beaten last term, from 33pts. to 9, to 14pts. to 8. The thing that the three-quarters must learn, is to tackle hard, low, and first time.

The outstanding player, has once again been the full-back J. McClure, who has saved many tries from being scored against us.

Finally we would like to thank one of our consistent supporters, the Headmaster. Several of the scores might have been reversed in the School's favour if more of the pupils had followed the Headmaster's example in supporting the team.

J. T. Davies, *Vice-Captain.*

The results have been as follows :—

v. R.A.F. Halton (Away)	Lost	6—3
v. Chiswich (Home)	Won	21—9
v. Harrow County—Cancelled.		
v. Old Wandsworthians	Lost	33—0
v. Selhurst (Away)	Won	8—6
v. Windsor (Home)	Won	21—9
v. Wallington (Away)	Lost	42—0
v. Lycée Français (Away)	Won	39—0
v. Tottenham County (Home)	Lost	9—8
v. Surbiton (Home)	Lost	30—0
v. Bec (Away)	Lost	13—0
v. Brockley—Cancelled.		
v. Selhurst (Home)	Lost	9—6
v. Mitcham (Home)	Lost	14—8

SECOND XV

This term the 2nd XV has unfortunately failed to win a match. Out of this term's fixtures—two were cancelled—one due to unfavourable conditions, the other due to the opposing school being unable to produce a team—one game was drawn and the rest were losses.

The drawn game was against the Lycée Français—played away in Regent's Park. This is the first fixture the School has made with the French Grammar School, and it is sincerely hoped that this will become a permanent fixture in our calendar in the years to come.

Throughout all the games—even against high losing odds—the team has played with great determination, putting up a strong fight against the stronger opposing teams.

One reason for our losses is due to not having a consistent team every week, thus having no chance to acquire the essential tactics necessary to surpass the altertness of the other teams, also on the whole the team has been composed for the most part of young boys in comparison to the older and more experienced opponents.

The following boys have played for the Second XV : M. R. M. Smith (captain), C. W. Coates, J. W. Dunstone, J. A. C. MacKerrell, P. W. Scott, J. E. B. Hunt, R. W. Mason, P. A. O. Veale, R. Wall, M. H. G. Laugharne, H. J. Russell, B. A. Cox, H. Potter, A. D. Wilson, A. Reisman, J. F. Palmer, D. J. Reid, G. M. North, J. H. Cahill, F. M. Carter, D. W. Milward, M. R. Beard.

M. SMITH, L6 Sc.

JUNIOR XV

The Junior XV have had a most successful season, losing only one match out of twenty-one to Chiswick by a penalty goal. The two hardest fought matches were those against our old rivals Bec School and Shooter's Hill. This school was visited for the first on March 9th, and until then, held an unbeaten home record. So far this season, the team has scored 442 points and has conceded only 20.

A vigorous pack, very capably led early in the season by S. E. Gibbs has served the back division well. Amongst the forwards, F. W. Evans' fearless tackling and T. M. Harnley's lightning spoiling at wing-forward are worthy of special mention. M. J. Norman, A. R. Nicholl and M. R. Prestedge have worked hard in the less spectacular positions and G. Dawber's snap kicks have often gained valuable ground.

In the three-quarters, F. J. Butcher's determined running has brought him 23 tries, one after covering half the length of the field. B. A. Burge, at fly-half, has proved himself worthy of this important position and his kicks at goal have been most successful.

The team have been led very ably by B. A. Eadie whose knowledge of the game and ability to play in any position as the situation demanded have proved invaluable. Apart from his own "bag" of 37 tries, his leadership has produced a very confident and promising side.

The team would like to express their appreciation to their supporters, their reserves, P. F. Coppock, A. S. Coutts and R. E. Baker and last, but not least, the Seniors and Parents who organised the excellent refreshments at home matches.

THE STAMP CLUB The Club has started again this term after a temporary lapse. The Club has a growing number of members and meets every Thursday after school in the Library Classroom (Room 33).

Activities include discussions, quizzes, general questions and talks on the stamps of different countries given by members. In the Eisteddfod Exhibition we hope to put on show some of the collections of members.

If anyone wishes to join will he please see either Mr. Lewis or myself.

H. J. RUSSELL, *Secretary*.

SWIMMING In the last issue we gave particulars of the Bronze Medallion examination of the Royal Life Saving Society. The following boys have now been awarded this medal and are to be congratulated on their achievement : B. M. Cullum, M. E. Duck, S. S. Hannay, D. W. Hensman, J. A. Jarvis, D. A. F. Morris, R. Müller, T. R. Smith and R. M. Smithers.

In addition Messrs. Hannay, Hensman, Jarvis, Morris, Müller, Smith and Smithers have also advanced to the next stage and have qualified for the Bronze Cross of the Society. In order to take this examination it is necessary first to obtain the Bronze Medallion.

The requirements of the Bronze Cross examination are as follows :—

1. Demonstrate two methods of rescue dressed in shirt and trousers with belt, towing the subject 20 yards in each case.
2. Swim dressed as above a distance of 300 yards, the first 100 yards breast stroke, the last 100 yards free style.
3. Undress in deep water.
4. Retrieve a 10 pound weight from a depth of not less than 6 feet.
5. Dive from two heights : (1) not exceeding 5 feet; (2) not less than 8 feet.
6. Demonstrate two scientific swimming movements from the R.L.S.S. Handbook.

OLD WANDSWORTHIANS ASSOCIATION

Since Old Boy's Notes last appeared in The Link the new school buildings have come into use, and we feel that we cannot commence these remarks better than by wishing an unqualified success to the School in these extended "spheres of influence". Although we have, as yet, only viewed them from the outside their excellent design and appointments are plain to see and we look forward to the time when we are permitted to make use of them on our weekly Club Night. And so, may the new school buildings and the old settle down amicably to work and play together, and we trust that no disharmony may arise from an arguing from different premises.

CLUB NIGHT As mentioned above, we hope shortly after these notes are written, to have the use of a gymnasium in the new school in addition to our existing facilities in the old, and this will prove a real boon to our Badminton enthusiasts. The old gymn with its low beams and ropes was ever a hazard to the shuttlecock, and Derek Finch who is in the process of forming an autonomous Badminton Section for the Association is convinced that the improved playing facilities will give a fillip to this branch of our activities.

CRICKET SECTION Mention must not be omitted of yet another new field which the OW's are proposing to enter—namely the cricket field. In response to several requests by members, it has been decided to raise a "Wanderers" side for this season and in the light of results and support obtained we may next year endeavour to secure a pitch of our own. Fixtures against Air India International, Worcester Park, Athletic, Raynes Park Residents and Wandgas have been arranged and we look forward to an enjoyable opening season of a venture which we hope may become as permanent as our illustrious Rugby Club. We greatly regret that our late decision to form this section precluded the fixing of a match with the School this year, but it is strongly hoped by the Association that next and future years may see a re-establishment of a meeting that was much honoured in the past. Another attractive line of thought is a match against the Parents' Association and steps are being taken to discover whether they would be able to meet us on "common" ground.

RUGBY CLUB Past experience has shown that to publish results to date at the time of writing these notes is rendered meaningless by the passage of time to when they appear in The Link, and in any case the success of a rugger club lies not in figures but in the enjoyment of keenly and cleanly contested matches. Let not this observation be thought to imply that present results are unworthy of disclosure—far from it. They are very creditable as any boy can discover for himself by reference to our table of fixtures and results on the board by the Old School Hall. Suffice it to say that the OW's rugger club continues to play good stuff and retain

old and make new friends. We humbly feel that it cannot do better than this, and we hope that it may long continue to be an inspiration to present schoolboys and to draw their support when they leave.

O.W. PRIZE Our congratulations go this year to J. Tudgay, of L6Sc and as the basis of this award is that it should go to the boy recording the most outstanding academic achievement, his remarkable list of distinctions in the G.C.E. examination justly entitles him to this recognition.

ANNUAL DINNER Although this took place back in January reference must be made to this most enjoyable function which proved a real social success even if it showed the usual financial loss. We took particular pleasure in the presence of Mr. G. Elms (that seemingly ageless member of the Staff) and of I. H. Simons, the Head Boy, both of whom delighted us with excellent and entertaining speeches.

Will any Master, Parent, or Boy who may wish to get in touch with the Association on any matter please write to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. S. H. Harrison at 21, Twilley Street, Wandsworth, S.W.18., who will be pleased either to answer the correspondence or pass it on to the appropriate quarter.

D.C.F.

A LINK WITH THE LINK

"Chelsworth" 310, Stradbroke Grove, Ilford, Essex.
10th March, 1957.

Dear Sir,

I enclose once again an annual subscription of 4/– for The Link which I still read and have done so for the last 40 years.

Yours sincerely,
E. R. LISTER.

[*Has anyone been a reader for a longer period? If so, I should like to know.*—EDITOR.]

WANDSWORTHIANS LODGE NO. 5365 The Lodge meets at the Ardington Rooms, Clapham Juncton, S.W.11., on the first Fridays in February, May, July, October and December. All enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Mr. R. H. Coombe, 26, Heathcroft, Hampstead Way, London, N.W.11.

The Wandsworthians Lodge of Instruction meets at 7.30 p.m. on Fridays from 3rd Friday in September to last Friday in April (except on first Friday in each month) at the "Prince of Wales", Upper Richmond Road, Putney. All old boys who are Freemasons are cordially invited to attend.

The Wandsworthians Chapter meets at the Ardington Rooms, Clapham Junction, S.W.11., on the first Fridays in January, March and November. All enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Mr. R. O. Beard, 7, Chessington Road East, Ewell, Surrey.

THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Association meeting on 1st February was very well attended and, after an instructive and especially delightful talk by the architect of the new school, parents had the pleasure of seeing the excellent buildings in which their sons now receive their schooling. Fine buildings do not necessarily turn out fine citizens, but a dignified environment can assist considerably towards a dignified and responsible personality. We parents should feel very happy to know that our boys have such splendid premises in which to spend so much of their daily lives.

In June 1956, a National Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations was formed and our Association was invited to affiliate. The matter was discussed by the Parents' Council and at our meeting held on 28th November, 1956, it was agreed that the Association affiliate to the new national organisation. We shall thus keep in touch with problems affecting the relationship between school and parents, and we trust that the affiliation will prove beneficial to our Association. A national magazine is being produced and the first number should be published soon. Copies should be available for sale at our Annual General Meeting. This link with the new national federation does not conflict with our existing affiliation to the English New Education Fellowship.

All parents are asked to make a note of the date of the Annual General Meeting, which has been fixed for Friday, 24th May, 1957. Details will be given in the terminal letter. A musical programme is being planned to follow the business meeting.

E. G. GREEN.

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

Subscriptions to cover the cost of any number of copies can be forwarded.