A. M. Link

THE LINK

WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

DECEMBER 1957

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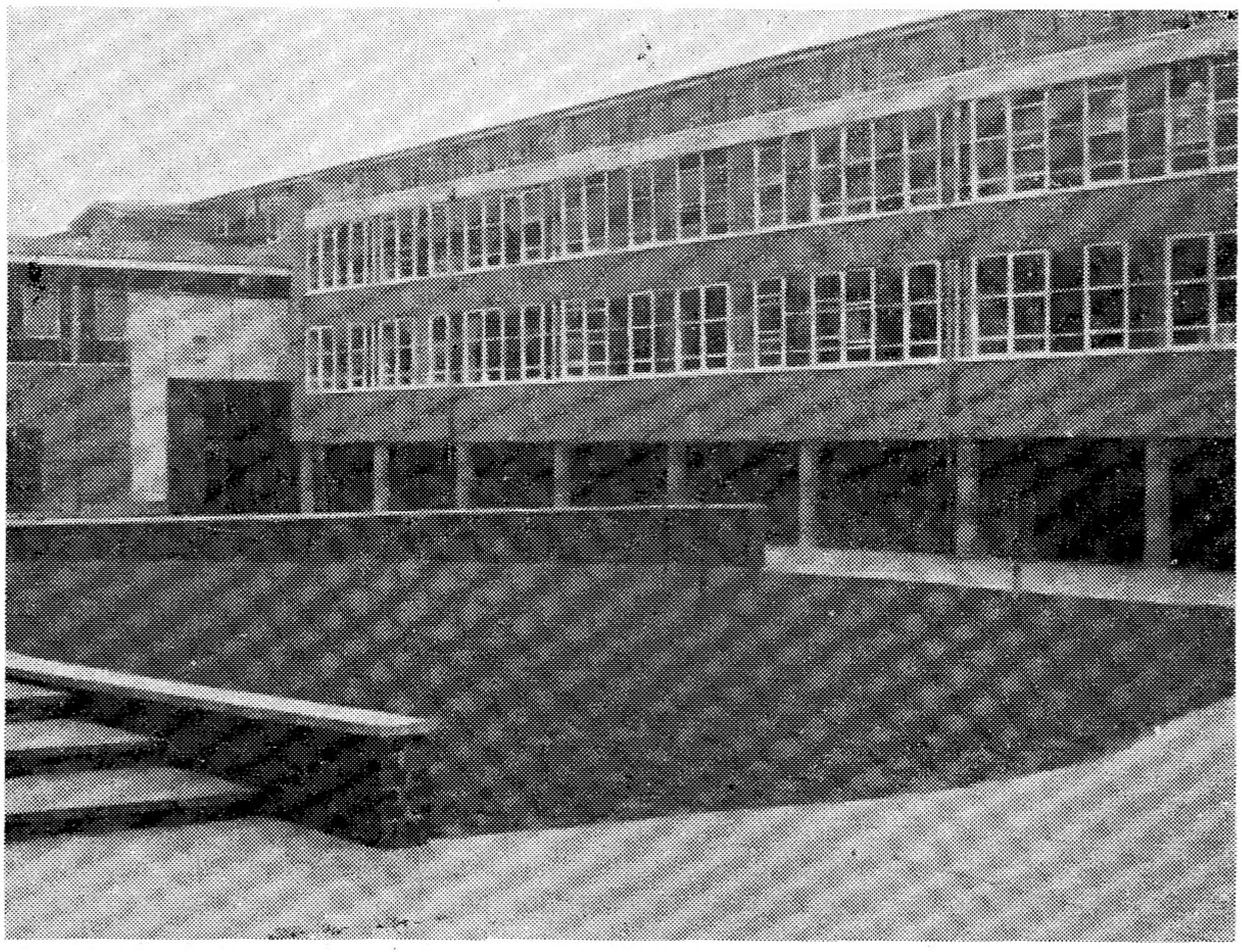
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Cover Design by Mr. A. Hodgkinson.

THE LINK

THE MAGAZINE OF WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

VOL. XLIII **DECEMBER, 1957** **No. 3**



(Photo by G. W. C. Wort)

The Open-air Theatre and Class-room Block.

HEADMASTER'S NOTES At the Official Opening on 7th November the School was in good shape—owing to the herculean labours of Mr. Simpson and his staff and cleaners—and in good form—owing to the assiduous preparations for the reception, enlightenment and entertainment of our visitors by the Staff and boys of the School.

Sir Lawrence Bragg in his memorable address talked about the achievement through education of Style, the permanent quality that remains when the mass of factual knowledge that we have to master to pass examinations has been largely forgotten.

And what pleased me and what from their own accounts pleased our distinguished visitors was the style of Wandsworth School.

The Prefects and seniors who acted as stewards set a splendid example of efficiency, helpfulness, and courtesy. The boys engaged in the many and varied demonstrations and duties in classrooms, laboratories, workshops and gymnasia carried out their tasks with a most pleasing and untiring zest

and kept it up right through from the afternoon to the end of the day. The Choir gave the outstanding performance that we have come to expect: but we all know well enough how a Choir comes to achieve that height of "style". Their style, like style in the gym, workshop, laboratory, or art room, comes from the discipline of assiduous practice.

It is this kind of occasion that gives us a sense of the unity and common purpose of the whole school, especially when so many boys have a chance of playing an indispensable and responsible part, and respond with zest and whole-hearted loyalty.

We cannot always live on the height, but these great peaks of response in the annals of the School give us a stimulus and a standard to live by and long years afterwards to remember. I do hope that the great occasion has left a permanent impress on us all that will raise our level of response to our own lasting benefit during the rest of the time we spend here. We have now fully entered into our splendid heritage. May we all prove worthy of it.

Not only had we the satisfaction of a fuller sense of belonging to the School as we know it to-day. The "Story of Wandsworth School", as told by the Prefects at the evening celebrations and rehearsed before sections of the School previously, has, I hope, added another dimension to our loyalty. It is a remarkable and, as the Chairman of the L.C.C. Education Committee said from the platform, a unique story of education development, with Wandsworth always leading the way: anticipating the Act of 1902 that founded the modern grammar school, anticipating developments in method and organisation, pioneering in parental and tutorial relationships and in international understanding through education, and now leading the way into the new era of secondary education to match the needs of the second half of the 20th century.

In the whole field of English School education, and I know it well, I would not be elsewhere at this time.

The term that marks the Official Opening of the new School also marks the retirement of Mr. Fenn in the fortieth year of his service to the School. And what a record of service it has been. In the earlier years of my headmastership Mr. Fenn was Chairman of the Common Room and both then and since it has been his continual and successful achievement to make the Common Room a harmonious and co-operative group of colleagues in which a rare spirit of fellowship has generated in the individual members the added motive power that raises service with goodwill to a higher power.

For over twelve years Mr. Fenn has been, first as Second Master, latterly as Deputy Head, both my own close and loyal collaborator and the trusted "elder brother" of the staff—if I may use that term—an office demanding in its holder quite exceptional gifts of personality and integrity. It is, I think a more difficult and delicate job than the headmaster's. In addition, Mr. Fenn had the increasingly complex task of working out the Time-Table, an almost unimaginably intricate job in a school that is organised on our lines, and one that takes many weeks of concentrated application.

For the insight and understanding he has shown during the years of planning and for the skill and indefatigable energy he has put into the job of execution, I am profoundly gratified to him. I lose my "master-shipwright", and—appropriately to vary the figure in the same context—the crew lose a First Mate who has done so much for so long to make this a happy ship.

He carries the grateful good wishes of Governors and Headmaster, Staff and boys, Old Boys and Parents with him into a well earned retirement. Looking back on the travail of the years he can be satisfied.

It is with very great satisfaction to me and, I am sure, to the whole School that Mr. Clode has been appointed by the L.C.C. and the Governors to succeed him as Deputy Head. Old Wandsworthians too have heard of

this appointment with pleasure and satisfaction: for, as most of you probably know, Mr. Clode is an Old Boy of the School.

May I on behalf of all express our warm congratulations and our best hopes and wishes to him in the task he takes up next term.

Mr. Chambers who joined us with the Technical Branch is also an Old Boy—indeed, he was Head Boy in 1927. And how gratifying it has been to have two other ex-Head Boys join the Staff this term, J. G. Morris and N. Roberts, as well as M. A. Ascher who re-establishes a valued connection both as an Old Boy and the son of his father.

We welcome seventeen new members of the Staff this term, and we are already well aware how fortunate we have been to secure their services. They replace nine masters who left last term and make a net addition of eight to the regular teaching staff, which now numbers 84.

N. J. C. Gabriel, M.A. Oxon.	Head of Chemistry Dept.
C. J. Walmsley, B.Sc. Hons.	Second in Maths. Dept.
M. A. Ascher	Specialist in Methodology.
B. E. Coleman (Loughborough)	Physical Education
J. M. Davies, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.O., L.T.C.L.	Music
R. J. Garwood, B.Sc. Hons.	Science (Chemistry)
H. G. Hamilton-Sneath	Engineering
J. Hughes (Shoreditch)	Handicraft
V. C. Matthews (Loughborough)	Handicraft
N. F. Roberts	Form Master (History, French).
G. Saffir	Specialist in Methodology
J. M. Slowson	Form Master (General Science)
P. G. Squibb, B.Sc. Hons.	History and Economics
M. A. Warwick, B.A. Hons.	Form Master (Languages)
B. ff. Williams, B.A. Hons.	French and German
M. L. Wiltshire (Carnegie)	Physical Education
J. G. Morris, B.A. Hons.	Form Master (History)

The following have been appointed or re-appointed to prefectorial responsibility this term:—

Joint Head Prefects	D. Ayshford, Head Boy 2nd half-year. G. W. C. Wort, Head Boy 1st half-year.
Second Prefect	B. C. Johnston.
Full Prefects	J. T. Davis, R. J. Carr, B. R. Harding, Amir Ali Agha, J. D. Carr, P. M. Cassidy, G. P. Douel, P. J. Drain, P. J. T. Francis, C. Green, M. J. Cowling, K. S. Kreuchen, J. E. B. Hunt, P. G. Lewis, R. T. J. Moody, D. T. Mount, R. Müller, M. R. M. Smith, J. H. Tudgay.
Sub-Prefects	D. T. Birkenshaw, H. Potter, K. H. W. Denyer, P. A. O. Veale, G. W. Willis, P. T. Libby, M. E. Duck, M. Beard, H. W. Smith, F. M. Carter, I. Thirlwall, A. W. Atkinson, P. A. Townson, L. G. Wilson, L. R. Nobes, J. G. F. Parsons, B. M. Cullum, B. J. Coleman, R. W. Mason, B. G. Wagstaff, B. W. Jones, A. D. McNeill, S. S. J. Tyson, B. R. J. Owen, E. C. Crouchman.
Zone Prefects	*Morant*—J. H. Cousins, M. J. Halsey, R. C. Newman, R. J. Pooley, P. Rees, J. F. West. *Spens*—M. J. Howe, M. W. Dodd, G. B. Watkins, C. N. Crabtree, D. P. Brennan, M. J. Dries, N. C. Bishop, D. L. G. Simpson, J. H. C. Martin, R. M. Bone.

Library Monitors — G. C. Alderson, B. R. J. Owen, A. J. R. Berry, R. M. Bone, J. R. Bunce, D. Crosbie-Hill, K. H. Kirby, R. A. Peacock, F. R. Shons.

Special Congratulations to J. Moore of 2 Eta on being the first boy in the history of the School, so far as I know, to win a London Schools Swimming Championship, in which the standard of performance is acknowledged to be the highest in the country.

Moore was first in the Junior Back Stroke Championship in 23.1 seconds and was also placed 3rd in the Free Style Championship.

Brian Light who took a degree in Geology at Durham University called to see us before going out to a post with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

David Harper who took his B.D. some time ago has now been inducted as a Baptist Minister. Geoffrey Whitfield following his footsteps has gained the Inter-B.D.

In interesting Musical Recital was given in the Grand Hall on 22nd October by William Ralton (trumpet), George Joyce (horn) and James Ketchen (trombone).

This term the Tutorial At-Homes for the Lower School were followed by a programme of "features of life at Wandsworth School". The Tutorial At-Homes for the Main School were arranged in connection with exhibitions and demonstrations of various activities at an Open Evening.

Now that a Sports Field for Old Boys of the School has been acquired and is being prepared for use next season, the War Memorial Appeal is being renewed to support this most important and most welcome development, and present parents are being asked to contribute donations to what will offer a valuable privilege and amenity for all boys leaving Wandsworth.

There is little doubt also that the School will be able to turn this provision to its own advantage when it becomes available.

It is time that a school like ours had a Sports Ground for its Old Boys and appropriate that the project to acquire it should coincide with the Opening of the new buildings.

MR. R. W. FENN, B.A.(HONS).

— an appreciation and short biography.

Mr. Robert William Fenn, although not born within the sound of Bow Bells, was born in London, in Forest Hill, S.E.23, in 1892, just three years before the Day Science School was opened at the old skating rink in Wandsworth High Street; the School which started with 34 boys and two masters and which has grown during the last 62 years into Wandsworth School as we know it to-day.

Curiously enough, he had as a childhood companion, the son of Dr. Waite, who in 1900 became headmaster of the School, which by that time had a roll of 172. Mr. Fenn's connection with Wandsworth School can thus be said to go back for 57 years, although his connection with it for the first 17 years was rather remote.

However, to continue with our story—"Bob Robert" (as he was affectionately called by the late Mr. Hatfield) was whisked away by his parents in 1901 to Liverpool, where after a mixed Primary Schooling, he obtained a scholarship to Wallasey Grammar School, a well-known school on the Cheshire side of the River Mersey. Here he was in attendance for

four years, at the end of which he matriculated through the Northern Universities Examination Board.

On leaving school in 1909, he obtained a post as private secretary to Charles M. Alexander, the great Evangelist and Revivalist. His chief requirement in this capacity seems to have been to be willing to be roused at any hour of the day or night to listen to inspired outpourings from his Rev. and take down copious notes for the benefit of suffering—but at that moment no doubt happily sleeping—mankind!

Young Bob survived this curious method of obtaining a livelihood for three years but what it did give him was time to work for an open scholarship to Liverpool University, which he obtained in 1912, entering the faculty of Modern Languages and studying German, French and Italian. Here he gained further distinction by winning the Baring Prize for German and considerable satisfaction as it helped to cover the cost of his University education.

He graduated in 1916 with a second class honours degree and promptly returned to Wallasey Grammar School, not this time in *statu pupillari* but as an active young master full of educational ideas and the magisterial aids necessary to inculcate in the tough, industrial, northern minds the cultural values of French and German.

Two years later, the Fenn family returned to London, Bob Robert—so sorry, our Mr. Fenn—with them. He applied for, and obtained a similar post at the Wandsworth Technical Institute Secondary School, as our school was then called; and so began his long connection with the School, forty years by next July, if the Council were to allow him to stay on until then. Almost the whole of his teaching life has been spent in the interests of boys of Wandsworth School! This is in itself a record, beating Dr. Waite's length of service by four years.

During the period 1918 to 1930, when he succeeded Dr. Couch as Senior German Master, he not only took an active part in the social life of the School but was organist and choirmaster at St. Jude's, Balham. He also played the viola in the School Orchestra and with Mr. Shrive founded the Chess Club.

In 1927, when the School was moved from the High Street to its present site and the Houses were decolourised and renamed, Mr. Fenn was posted to Cromwell, later being tutor to Set B; in which capacity he continued to serve until he became Second Master in 1946. Needless to say, on account of his understanding of the ways of boys and wills of parents (or should it be the other way round?) together with the patience, partly innate and partly acquired during the Alexandrian period, he was a most successful tutor; one whom the boys felt they could trust and look up to; one whose attitude was much more paternal than avuncular.

From the time of his appointment as Senior German Master in 1930 until the advent of the Second World War in 1939, he was particularly associated with the exchange of foreign students, both in connection with this and other London Grammar Schools, known as the Anglo-German Summer Schools, and the London Evening Institutes.

In 1938, when he was in Berchtesgaden, the mountain residence of Adolf Hitler, with a party from the Evening Institutes, he contrived to meet the Führer and presumably discussed with him matters of great moment. What he never tells is how much time he spent practising the Nazi salute beforehand, in order to get its action perfect, in order to extend the hand of friendship at a suitable distance when received into the August company. Nor whether he was obliged to sing the Horst Wessel song in English as a somewhat lengthy password before his credentials could be regarded as satisfactory.

Aptly enough, when war broke out the following year, and the School was evacuated to the Woking area, Mr. Fenn found himself in charge of the Horsell group, obviously a condensed form of Horst Wessel, his musical star of the preceding year!

During the evacuation period, Mr. Fenn busied himself with social work for the benefit of evacuated London boys and girls, arranging dancing classes and other forms of entertainment for them to help to maintain their sanity and prevent the drift back to London. The dancing classes were very popular and continued for three years in London after the war had ended.

At Woking, Mr. Fenn also inaugurated a series of conferences for the older children in the Four Grammar Schools, such topics as The Atlantic Charter, The Beveridge Welfare Scheme and Religion in the Modern World being included in the discussions. These also were well attended and served their purpose.

Since 1946, Mr. Fenn has been Second Master or Deputy-Headmaster, the duties associated with which he has carried out quietly and efficiently.

He has always been approachable, both by boys and junior members of the Staff, and ever ready to assist in putting right anything obviously wrong. In case of misdemeanour, bad work or delinquency, he has always been ready to listen to a boy's story but not necessarily believe it and interviews involving lying have often resulted in somewhat painful terminations!

Since the advent of the new School, his organising abilities have been sorely tested but he has shewn a mastery of detail, especially in the construction and manipulation of complicated timetables, which has been appreciated by all who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Mr. Fenn is now 65 years of age, and by virtue of his position as Deputy-Headmaster must leave at the end of this term. He is, however, a man of many interests and his mind is much too active to allow time to hang heavily on his hands. He is interested in music, gardening, carpentry and writing, to which he can turn as the spirit moves him. He also wishes to finish the third volume to his present volumes 1 and 2 of "Ich Lerne Deutsch", which information I trust will not cause too much consternation in the minds of those students of German just finishing volume 2.

We are sorry that the time has come to say goodbye officially but we hope that we shall see much of him in the future not only on the occasion of school functions but during the everyday routine. His retirement will be a loss to the School but he has thoroughly deserved a break from the hurly-burly of school life and we wish him a very happy future in the company of Mrs. Fenn, with whom we wish to couple our good wishes.

J.M.

I REMEMBER

Looking back over the past is not always either pleasant or profitable, but I could not on those grounds refuse the Editor's invitation to include in the pages of The Link a few personal reminiscences of the earlier days of the School, because, in fact, all my memories are happy ones. Wandsworth School has always been for me a happy place to work in. Had it been otherwise, I should not have been content to stay here for nigh on forty years.

Forty years is long enough to accumulate a rich store of memories both grave and gay. Many of them would be of little interest to the majority of the readers of The Link, because they attach to people, who are mere names to them. It would be unrealistic to expect even the most intriguing idiosyncracies of former members of the School, whether Staff or boys, to have the same interest for the present generation of boys as they have for me.

Much has already been written in The Link and elsewhere about the curious agglomeration of buildings, in which the early days of the School were spent. Any attempt to describe them is apt to be received with polite incredulity. They sprawled on the site of the present Technical Institute in the High Street, and on the other side of the road, where the new Municipal Buildings are, was a row of small shops, amongst which was Bloss' sweet shop, much patronised by the boys.

My first visit to the School was in the evening after dark. It was by no means easy to find. Indeed I walked past the door twice before I discovered it. Eventually I made my doubtful way through a dark and

cavernous tunnel towards the beacon light of the inquiry office. Here I was welcomed by a charming lady secretary, who conducted me by tortuous ways to the Principal's room, which was situated in one of the only two modern bits of the building. Here I first met Mr. Gridley, the Principal of the Institute, and Dr. Waite, the Headmaster of the Secondary School. I was offered and accepted an invitation to join the Modern Languages Staff. It is more than probable that, if that interview had taken place in the day-time, when the rest of the premises would have been visible, I should have declined the offer. Had I done so, I should have missed the opportunity of being welcomed on to what most surely be the friendliest school staff in London, or for that matter anywhere else.

Actually I had formed a rather tenuous connection with Wandsworth School some twenty years earlier, when my favourite playmate over in Forest Hill was a little boy named Ernest Waite. We used to play in each other's gardens. His father was a rather shy, reserved man with a heavy dark moustache, who did not seem to have a great deal to say to us children. Although I did not know it at the time, he was an assistant master on the Staff of Wandsworth School. After a few years Ernest's family moved away, and I lost all trace of them, so it is hardly surprising that I failed to recognise at first the cleanshaven Headmaster, who appointed me to the Staff.

I well remember being shown round the premises by Dr. Waite on my first day. I had previously been teaching in a fine modern building not unlike our present Lower School, and I can still recall the grim impression made by the bleak, barn-like structure that served as the School Hall, with its plain brick walls, concrete floor and canvas-lined roof. The laboratories and science lecture rooms opening off the Hall cheered me up a little, but almost immediately we dived through another tunnel into a playground, in which were nine corrugated iron classrooms, each opening into the outside world, and which were heated, or rather warmed, by slow-combustion stoves of uncertain temperament. The Staff Common Room was an attic at the top of a building, that had once been a shop. Nobody seemed to spend much time there. Dr. Waite assured me with a wry smile that the School buildings were regarded as only temporary and that we had been promised a new building "before long". It was to be another nine years before that promise was fulfilled. He told me also that a large number of the Staff were temporary because many of the permanent Staff were away in the forces. I can, in fact, only remember ten of the permanent Staff who were there in 1918—Soutar, Greeves, Davey, Shrive, Shoosmith, Dudley, Scott, Padfield, Physick and Tribe. The rest were mostly retired teachers, who had nobly volunteered to fill the breach in an emergency. I found them all very friendly, but as I was so much younger than almost all of them, they struck me as rather sedate. In the following year the "troops" began to return—Powell, Phillimore, Grutchfield, Barratt, Houseley, Smith and Hatfield. A few others had decided to seek jobs elsewhere. I soon discovered that Hatfield and I had shared a holiday in Switzerland some seven years earlier.

The Common Room, which was soon moved on to a lower floor, was now enlivened with stories of how the war was really won. V. V. Smith had been Sergeant-Major in a war hospital in France. His natural gift for story-telling in no way lacked material, and his best and most gruesome stories always seemed to be reserved for lunch time. Hatfield and Phillimore had been with the "guns" and they too knew how to shoot a line. As we listened to their tales of derring-do (and derring-don't), I wondered how much Haig and Foch really knew about how wars are won—or lost.

A little group of five Sixth Form boys also returned from service with the forces. They had been called up before they had taken their General School examination. Some had been subalterns and one a sergeant. They might well have been a source of considerable trouble. Fortunately they were all good fellows, who understood the difficulties of the situation and submitted with good grace to school organisation and discipline.

The years immediately following the war added many recruits to the Staff—Ascher, Cowan, Prior, Lovel and Dobbs among others, and life at

school returned to normal. Looking back over that period I can picture many scenes:

I think of the School assembly, with over five hundred boys packed into the Hall and Dr. Waite's head barely visible, although he was standing on a box.

And then there were P.T. lessons in the same Hall to the accompaniment of the circular saw in the woodwork shop beyond the wall.

I remember the Dinner boys singing grace before and after lunch in the same Hall. Their "grace before meat" contained the words: "On what Thou hast prepared Thy blessing, Lord, bestow". This inspired the nickname "Lord Bisto", given later to Mr. Phillimore by the Prefects.

There was the little door in the wall beside of Staff cloakroom, through which it was sometimes possible for the more venturesome types to slip out and run across to Bloss' at the risk of being apprehended by Weston, the Caretaker, out on important errands of his own.

Twice a day, one of the lady secretaries would come round to check registration, trailing clouds of Parma violet, or was it Californian Poppy? I forget.

I recall the quaint nickname "Squidge" associated with "Spiers French Drill", and Scripture lessons from a French New Testament, thus combining Biblical and grammatical studies with a neat economy of effort.

The first School Play, "A Midsummer Night's Dream", was produced under incredible difficulties by Dr. Jory, and presented on a minute stage of trestle tables that creaked and groaned with every step but never actually collapsed. I can still remember working against time to make up the entire cast.

It is difficult these days to imagine the excitement caused by the construction of a double solenoid crystal set in the Physics Laboratory in 1922, or the thrill of hearing for the first time music broadcast from the Eiffel Tower. I went straight home and made a similar one for myself.

Memory recalls Speech Days at the Baths, with light refreshments for the initiated in the little ante-room.

We had a general inspection in 1920 and I well remember the surprise of the inspectors that so much good work could be done under such discouraging conditions.

At last the glad day came when we were translated to the luxury of the new building in Sutherland Grove. Curiously enough I was conscious of a (twinge of) nostalgia for the old tin huts.

The new building was our home for twenty-nine happy and kindly years. A few highlights from that placid period I can recall with particular interest: One of them was the visit of the paramount chief of the Gold Coast, Sir Ofori Atta, complete with retinue of dusky ministers and officials, all in native uniform, and Sir Ofori himself under an enormous gaudy ceremonial umbrella. We turned out the Cadet Corps band of drums and bugles to welcome them. The noise they made was pretty grim, but we hoped our guests would regard it as complimentary native music.

In 1927 we organised the notorious Gymkhana, which raised over £200 for the War Memorial Fund and completely dislocated the work of the School for months. I remember the busy stalls of the Bazaar in the Gym, and Mr. Hatfield's production of "The Secret of Polperro" in the Art Room, with incidental music by a hitherto (and ever since) unknown composer —me. The orchestral score of this "opus" has mercifully not survived. My own particular job was the Concert Party, which revealed more unsuspected talent.

Then in 1932 came the retirement of Dr. Waite. Most of us felt this as a personal loss, since he was the kindliest of men. There was a good deal of speculation about what school life would be like under his successor. We soon discovered that two men so different in almost every way were yet alike in their sympathetic understanding of our personal problems. It was not long before the new Head decided that the Staff Common Room was "the best club in London".

Soon after that we acquired the Swimming Pool and the Fives Courts.

I was particularly pleased about the Fives Courts, since Fives was the only game that I played with real enthusiasm at school. The instruction and training of the Fives teams naturally fell to me.

Another memory is of a Staff quartet singing the sad story of Simple Simon at an otherwise first-rate Christmas Concert organised by a particularly talented group of Prefects.

Particularly pleasant were the Staff Cricket Matches in the sunshine on the Cricket ground in front of the School. The pitch was approximately where the Open Air Theatre now is. I have vivid recollections of the last one I took part in. We had in the first eleven R. F. Last, possibly the fastest bowler that the School has ever known. Two balls of my first over flashed past, both byes. The third I somehow hit, and hit hard. It might have been a six, but no, for some reason the ball soared vertically up into the blue and after what seemed an age, fell with a thump into the wicket-keeper's gloves—to my intense relief.

The Cricket pitch was never a source of particular pride. It had a way of drying up and cracking in hot weather. I remember an unusually hot dry Summer in 1934, when an official drought threatened the preparation of a Cricket table. A stalwart band of Prefects, whose geological studies apparently revealed the existence of a subterranean stream beneath the lower field, began excavations in the corner. By the time they had reached a depth of nine feet they were completely unrecognisable beneath a coating of clay, but they had found water. The well yielded about a thousand gallons and the pitch was saved.

Mention of the pitch reminds me of Bill Manley, who looked after it for so long. When he was off duty he was usually to be found in his little hut in the corner of the field, and I still have a delightful photographic study of Old Bill asleep in his wheelbarrow.

All these pleasant leisurely things were swept away by the Second World War. None of us is likely to forget the experience of evacuation. We set out from our homes with hand luggage only, and like Abram, not knowing whither we went, and not knowing whether we should see our household goods again. How relieved we were to be set down at Woking, within easy reach of our homes! How annoyed we were at seeing our well-organised groups of boys scattered indiscriminately over half a dozen villages! I had charge of the Horsell group, where kindly householders, who received us, were expecting an infants' school. What a nightmare problem that billetting was! We never really solved the problem of getting the right boys into the right billets, in spite of the almost daily reshuffle. I wonder that the billetting officers managed to stand up to it and still smile.

There were lessons in the Parish Hall, Staff meetings in the Red Lion, and later on afternoon shifts at Woking School, which the local Staff endured with surprising grace and fortitude. Finally, we got a building of our own, "Little Firs". Here we could at least make some attempt at organised living, and lessons could go on, although the curriculum was modified to include gardening, general weeding, and mysterious activities in the potting shed.

Out-of-school activities were a problem, aggravated by the black-out and the danger of air raids. When we got more used to both, we started a four-schools club, to include seniors from the four schools, two local and two evacuated, in the area. Social evenings became popular, but dancing was a failure, since only one or two boys could dance. So we started a ballroom dancing class with the encouragement and assistance of about a dozen long-suffering Mayfield girls as partners. Before long we could waltz, quick-step, fox-trot and in some cases even tango. It was a great success and the experiment continued for some years after our return to Sutherland Grove.

There was a Sixth Form discussion group also that met each week in my flat to listen to the B.B.C. broadcasts "To start you talking". We organised inter-school conferences with the help of the local Y.M.C.A., whose premises we used. It was cheering to see some two hundred older boys and girls assembled to discuss such topics as the Atlantic Charter, Homes after

the war, and the Beveridge Plan. We were encouraged to invite visiting speakers, among others Arnold Forster and Chester Wilmot. It was strenuous but rewarding. All the same we heaved a vast sigh of relief when we could leave the war-scarred " Little Firs " and come home again.

What has happened since is too fresh in everybody's mind to need to be recorded. The planning of the new school, the erection of the new buildings and finally the launching of the new venture have been our main preoccupation.

I confess that I look back with pride over these forty years in the life of Wandsworth School, pride in its achievements, pride that I have been able to play some part in the three stages of its growth, the " tin huts ", the " old building " and now the palatial premises of the comprehensive school. I hope that forty years on memories of its developing story will be equally pleasant and satisfying.

ROBERT W. FENN.

ROBERT J. CARR The School heard with deep sorrow of the death of Robert J. Carr, a member of the Upper VIth, and a School Prefect. During his eight years at the School Carr had endeared himself to all, staff and boys alike, by his integrity of character, his loyalty, his steadfast courage and buoyant optimism in face of increasing illness.

Although unable to play an active part in the athletic life of the School, he proved a loyal supporter of the 1st XI, acting as a scorer for several seasons, and was fast establishing himself as a real authority on the history and laws of the game.

We shall all miss his quiet dignity, courtesy and fortitude which will serve as an example to us all. We send our deepest sympathy to Mr. Carr, himself a most active member of the Parents' Council.

THE CEREMONIAL OPENING OF THE SCHOOL,

7th November, 1957.

Our new school buildings were officially opened some nine months after we had taken possession of them. Such an arrangement at first sight seems illogical, and might indeed be expected to detract from the impressiveness of the occasion. Yet the wisdom of the authorities was surely vindicated by the great success of the Opening Day on November 7th. Not only did all the practical and technical departments have ample time to settle in to their new workshops, not only had we all been able to become perfectly familiar with our new environment, so that we could feel ourselves true hosts to our guests on this occasion, but above all we had already come to think of our various departments as parts of one great school. This sense of unity—a unity which embraces a wonderful variety—was the keynote of the afternoon; every department, indeed every boy in the School, was able to share in the excitement of the occasion, and to play his part in a ceremony that marked a landmark in the history of *his* school.

By 2.30 p.m. there were gathered in the new assembly hall a distinguished party of guests, including Sir Lawrence Bragg, O.B.E., M.C., F.R.S., who was to perform the opening ceremony, the Chairman of the London County Council Education Committee, Mr. Harold Shearman, M.A., the Deputy Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Mrs. Olive Haines, the Chairman of the Primary and Secondary Schools Committee, Mrs. Goodrich, the Chairman of the School Governors, Lt.-Col. G. L. Matthews, O.B.E., T.D., and representatives of the architects and contractors who designed and built the

new buildings. Also present were many other members and officials of the L.C.C., members of the Governing Body, a large number of parents and friends of the School, and most of the boys in the main School. The proceedings were opened and the mood of the afternoon set by the spirited singing of two choruses from Handel's "The King shall rejoice", by the School choir. The Chairman of the Education Committee then welcomed our guests, and introduced Sir Lawrence Bragg as a distinguished Cambridge scientist with a particular interest in education, which had led him to inaugurate a scheme of science lectures and demonstrations for London school-children at the Royal Institution.

Sir Lawrence was as modest about his contributions to science as about his qualifications to be speaking on this occasion: he remembered his own son's advice on another occasion, that Speech Day speeches should be brief and enlivened with plenty of jokes. But in his relaxed and humorous speech he posed a question of fundamental importance. What use is a school? The passing of examinations was in itself unimportant, but throughout one's school life one should be acquiring "style". By this he meant a way of thinking, an attitude to work and to mental problems, and also easy relations with other people with whom we have to work. He believed that this great new school would be able to achieve that ideal of education. Here education would be tailor-made to fit the child, and all the unhappy effects of the examination system would be circumvented. The wonderful facilities and great flexibility of organisation should encourage every child to achieve his own best style.

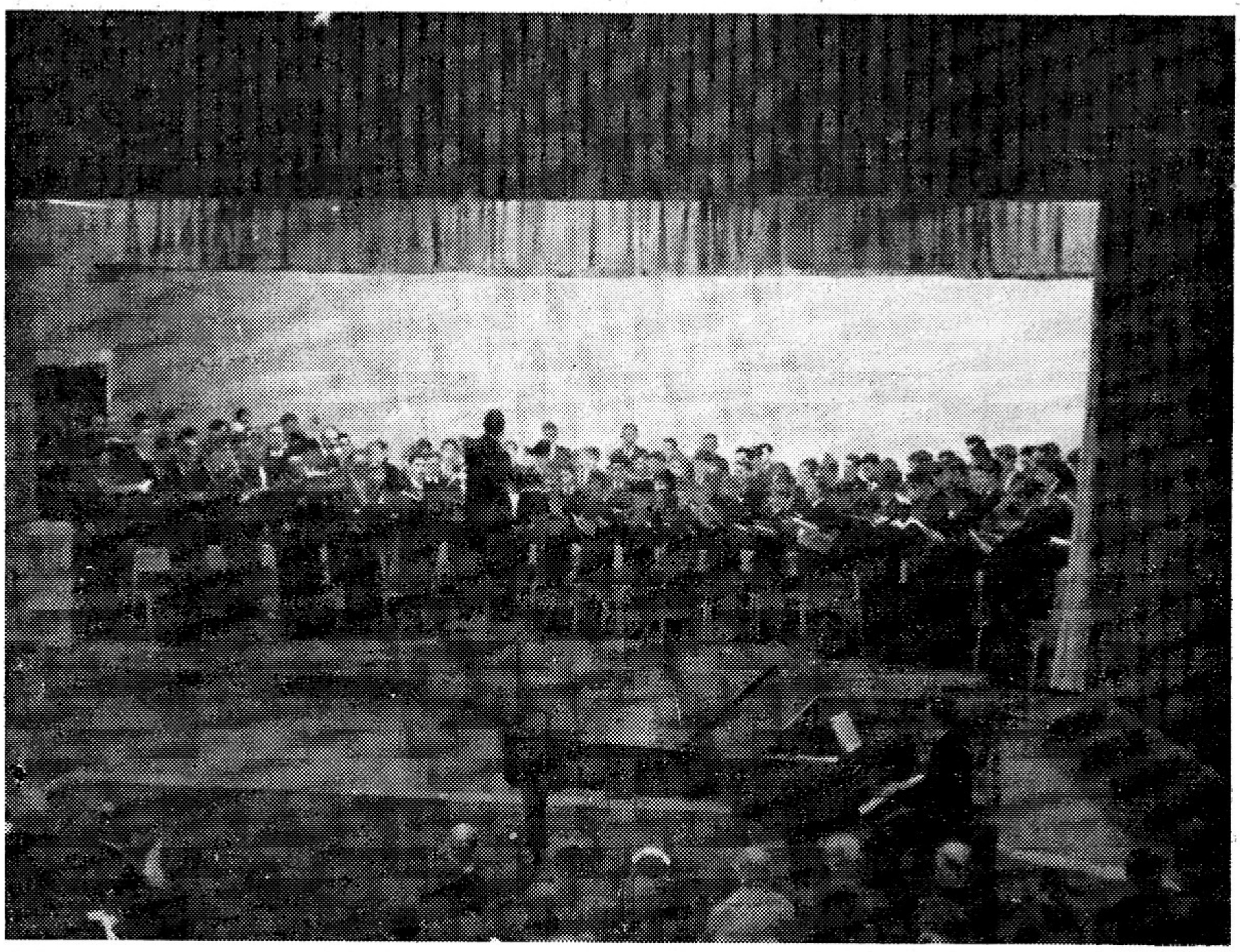
Lt.-Col. Matthews, speaking on behalf of the Governors, accepted with pleasure the responsibility for the future management of the enlarged school. He referred back to the School's fine record as a technical, science and grammar school, and pointed out that to keep and enlarge this reputation the School needed not only fine equipment but also a staff of equal stature. That such a staff had been assembled was a credit to the Headmaster and Governors. He paid tribute also to the work of the Deputy Head, Mr. Fenn, who would shortly be retiring, and to the nucleus of staff from the old school.

Sir William Bowen, C.B.E., J.P., one of the School Governors, moved the vote of thanks to Sir Lawrence Bragg, by referring to his distinguished career as an example and inspiration to us all. Mrs. Goodrich, seconding this vote of thanks, pointed out that while her generation had been talking about living in a scientific age for years, it had now become a reality, so that the boys present would actually have to *live* in it. It was thus especially appropriate that the new school should be opened by a distinguished scientist who knew how to make science real to us.

In introducing the Headmaster's address, the Chairman reminded us that the School had had only two headmasters in fifty years, and that yet Mr. Raymond King remained young and progressive in mind, and an ideal leader for this great experiment in education. The Headmaster welcomed Sir Lawrence on behalf of the School, not only as a great scientist but also as a great teacher. This ceremony officially marked the beginning of a new phase in the proud history of Wandsworth School, but the change-over to the more comprehensive organisation of education in the School had happily been a gradual process, firmly based on the traditions and standards of the old grammar school. The Headmaster felt that, while the London type of comprehensive school was indeed something new, it only reflected an inevitable trend away from tripartitism, with all its problems at 11-plus, which could be observed throughout the country. The L.C.C. had been generous and enlightened in the range and variety of educational provision in the new buildings, and it was now the School's task to develop a flexible internal organisation to make the fullest use of the facilities. In the colossal task of devising a timetable to put the right group of boys in the right place with the right teacher at the right time, the Head was particularly grateful to his Deputy, Mr. R. W. Fenn. He paid tribute also to the Architect, Mr. Hening, for designing a gracious and spacious home for the enlarged school,

and to the non-teaching staff, particularly the Schoolkeepers and the Meals Service, for their hard work and efficiency during this difficult change-over period. With its fine buildings and staff, Wandsworth School was equipped as few others to meet the educational challenge of the second half of the twentieth century.

The Headmaster's inspiring address was followed by some further lovely singing by the School Choir, now enlarged to one hundred and thirty members, trained to perfection by Mr. Russell Burgess. They sang " Kelvin Grove " and " The Heavens are Telling " (Haydn), and the audience rose to join them in singing the School Hymn and the National Anthem. Guests were then free to inspect the whole of the new buildings, with numerous exhibitions and demonstrations that had been arranged to reflect the work of the School. Tea was also served for visitors.



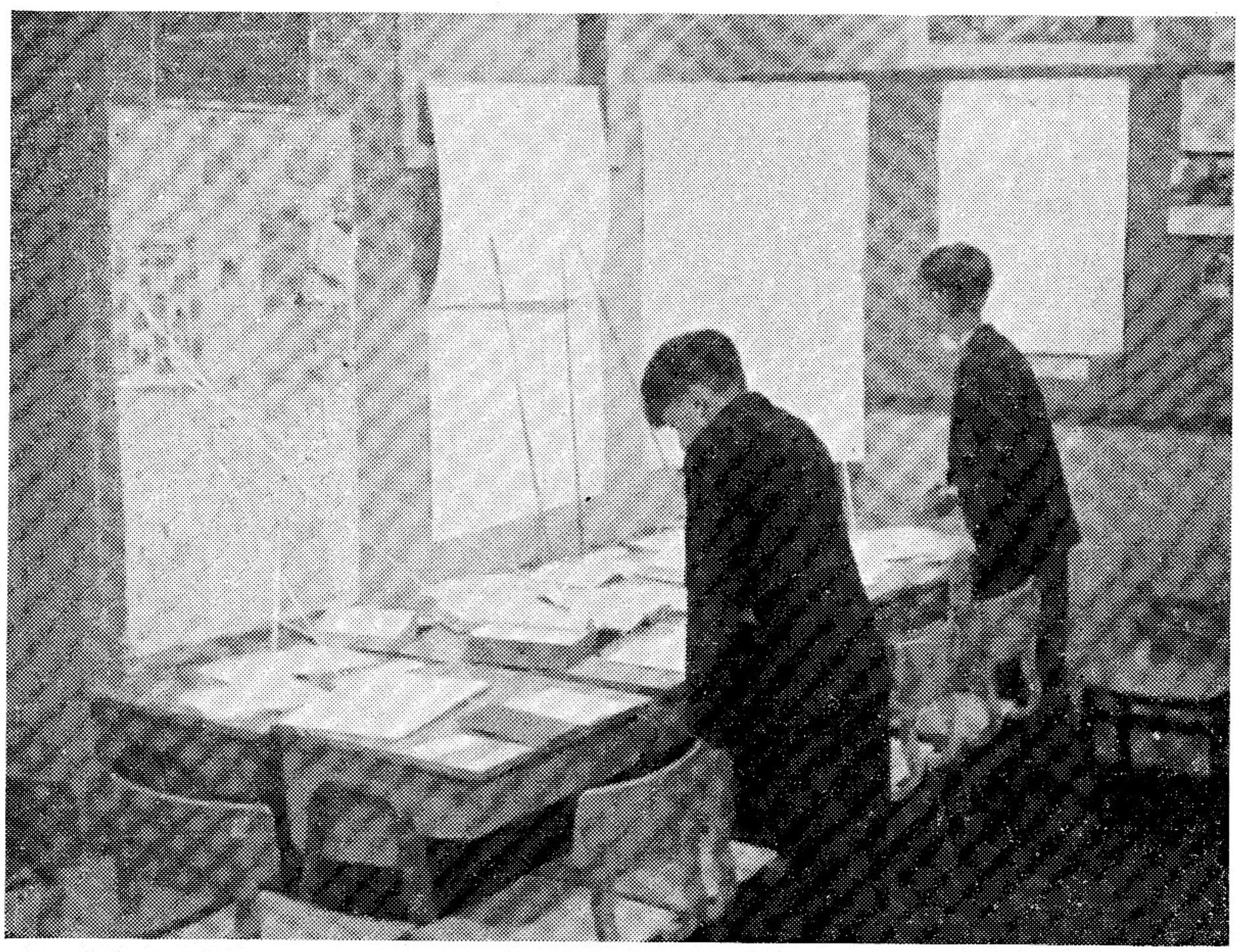
The Choir in action.

EXHIBITIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS DURING OPENING DAY.

Both for those who were able to be present in the afternoon, and for the many parents and friends of the School who attended the evening celebration of Opening Day, a great variety of things to see gave a picture of the life of the enlarged School. Exhibitions and demonstrations were perhaps in a rather more serious vein than those traditionally arranged to accompany the annual Eisteddfod Exhibition, and certainly there was a more deliberate attempt to show the scope and variety of work in all departments of the School. Under Mr. Snell's efficient organisation, numerous notices carefully produced by the Painting and Decorating and Technical Drawing departments guided visitors to every corner of the buildings where there was anything of interest, while in the Hall later in the evening, parents who had been unable to be present in the afternoon heard tape-recordings of the main speeches, listened to a repeat of the Choir's programme for the after-

noon, and also heard a pageant of the School's history rendered by the Prefects. Refreshments were also served.

In the class-room block, the English Exhibition offered an appeal to ear as well as eye by showing a working model of the new school stage with a scale model of one of the sets for "Macbeth", which will be the first production presented on the new stage, and a tape-recording of the scene illustrated made by Willis and Atkinson, who will play the parts of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Other exhibits included one devoted to the teaching of Shakespeare, centred on a teaching model of his original "Globe" Theatre, another showing the excellent work done for an Anglo-French project on "The Thames—London's River", an impressive array of books in use in the department, and posters showing the activities of the Literary and

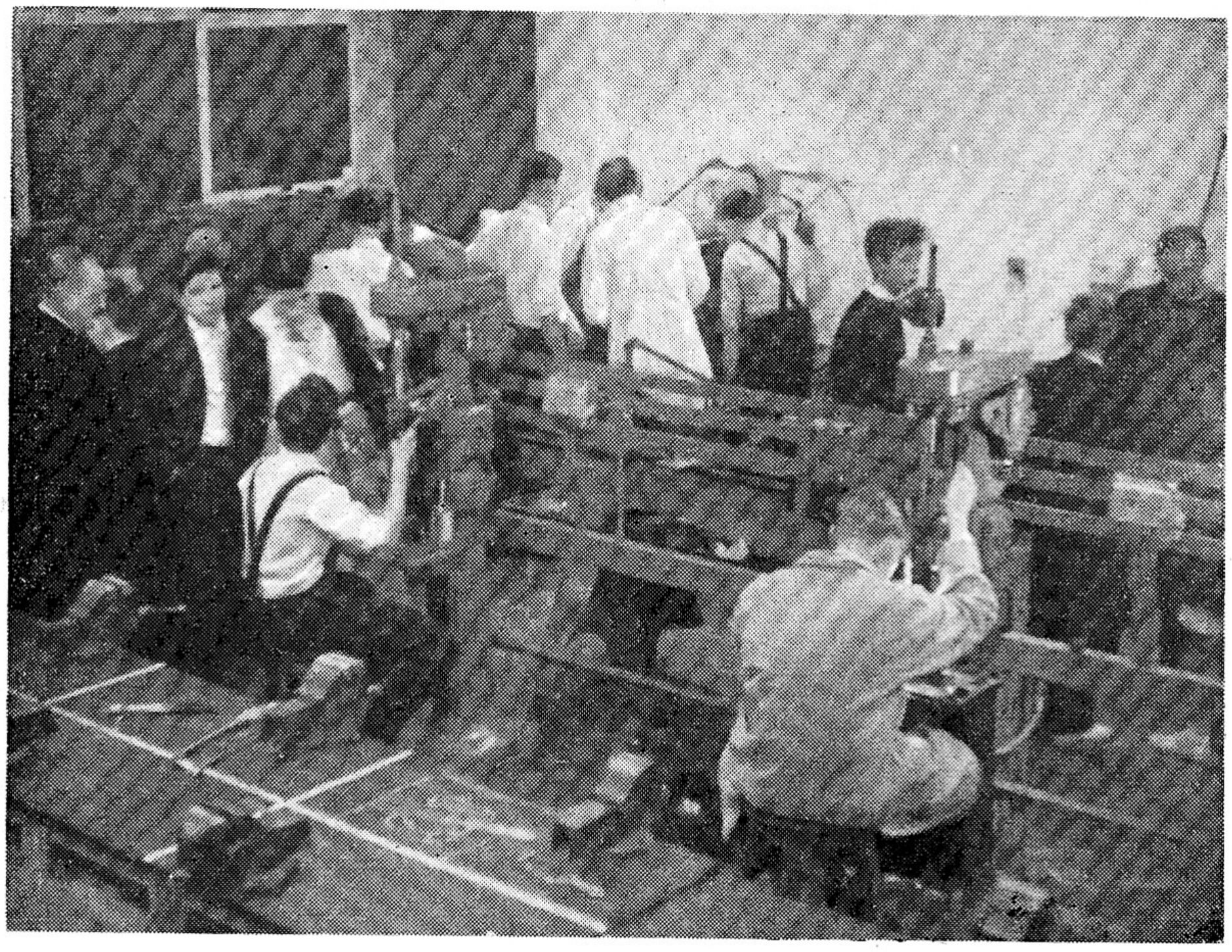


A corner of the Religious Education Exhibition.

Dramatic Society and the Eisteddfod. History was represented in two rooms, one containing books used and some valuable historical documents and first editions; the other showing aids in teaching history to juniors, and especially the enthusiasm of their History Society, whose members were busy on the spot making exciting historical models. Geography also showed us boys at work, as well as an impressive display centred on the geography of New Zealand, an interesting map of the world on the flag-stones of the Balcony, and a corner devoted to a record of this year's Week in Industry visit to Sheffield. The French Department showed us "un coin de la France", with a varied display of all things French, including even a grocer's shop. The Library was also open, with special displays illustrating its growing scope, and next door to it the Stamp Club reflected its flourishing activities in an interesting exhibition. Mr. Ascher's answers to the special needs of boys in One Omicron were also amply displayed, with some fine examples of their work. Religious Instruction presented a display not only of books, but of the most ingenious visual aids and project work by boys, that really made Old and New Testament times come alive. Music also was represented by an exhibition of instruments, records and music, while there

were corners for the Travel Club, who will visit Norway next year, and for the Railway Club, who added to their wonderful lay-out of model trains a background of suitable railway music.

In the technical block, we found young would-be plumbers at work, and a display of the joints and fixtures in lead and copper that they are learning to do. The expensive engineering machinery next door was being competently handled by boy-operators who were milling, shaping and turning most expertly. In the metalwork department also, which this year is really coming into its own, boys were manufacturing fire-irons, and the first of the lovely beaten metalwork was being produced. Woodwork showed us for the first time examples of machine-turned bowls, and we could watch boys working on the lathes, as well as doing excellent conventional hand-work. Boys were also to be seen at work on designs in the Painting and Decorating shop, where the display included delicate plant-drawing and boys' own up-to-the-minute designs for interiors. Mr. Hoare's art-room showed boys at



Engineers at work.

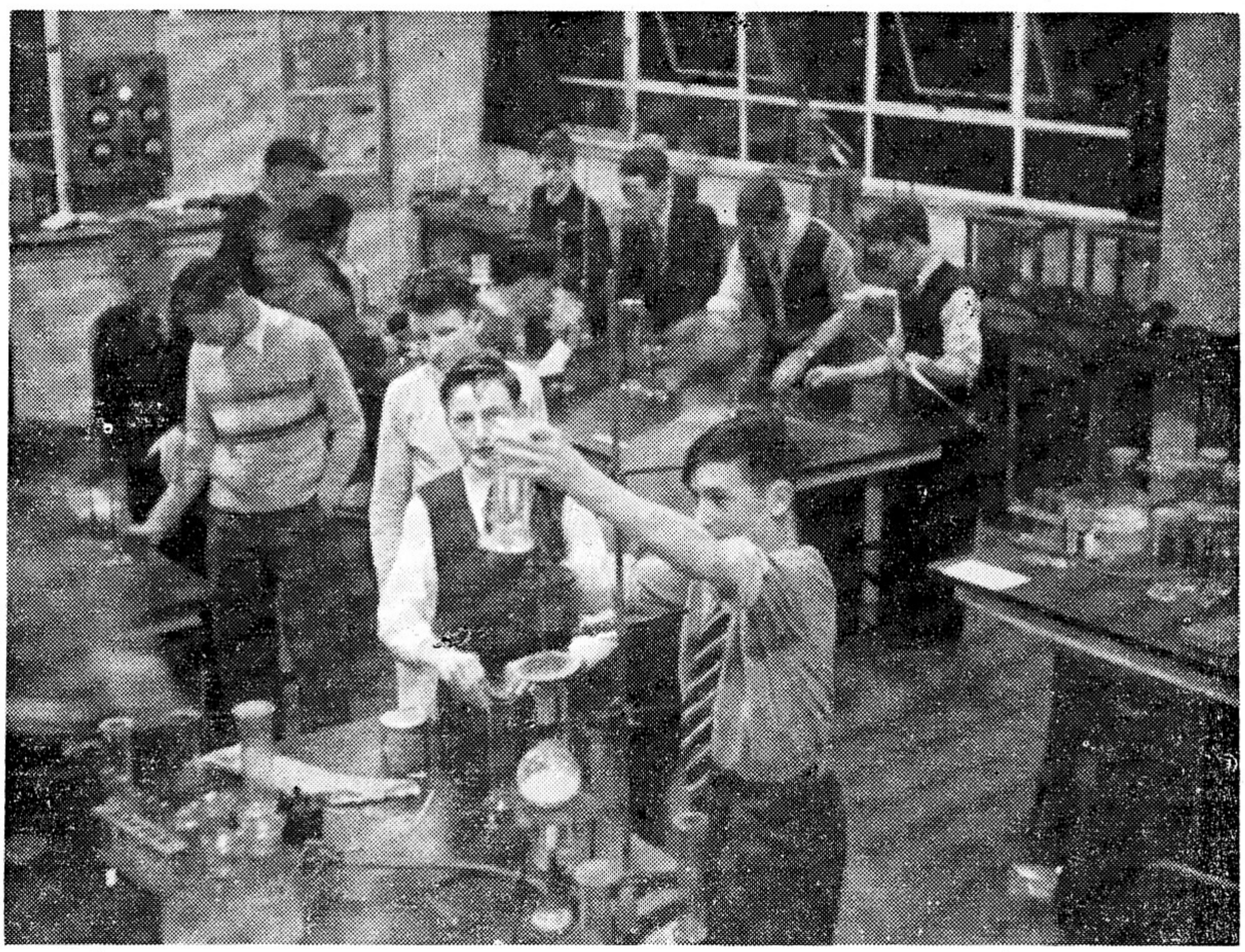
work on exciting properties for the forthcoming production of "Macbeth", while in the Pottery Room boys were modelling in clay, and in the other two art rooms painting, posters and lino-cuts were represented by boys at work and wall-displays.

Engineering, building, and surveying drawing were all fully represented, while in the science block experiments were in progress in the physics, chemistry and biology laboratories. Physics included lung-pressure tests, experiments in expansion and a demonstration wind-tunnel for aeronautics, and chemistry showed us the preparation of various gasses and crystals. The biology laboratory was crowded with boys busy dissecting and demonstrating, and we could see the beating of a frog's heart and the blood circulation in a frog's foot, among many other exhibits.

In the gymnasium block both brickwork and carpentry have their work-shops, and in both boys were busy on routine tasks. A manhole, an unusual brick fire-place, pillars and walls were going up in the brickwork shop; and

roofs, gates, and staircases were among the exhibits of carpentry. In the games and gymnastics departments the purpose was to show by displays the great variety of activities open to boys in the School. Athletics included demonstration hurdling, jumping and pole-vaulting; gymnastics presented a typical lesson modified as a demonstration of skill; basket-ball was shown in a display game in the afternoon and a match between staff and boys in the evening, won by the boys by a narrow margin. Fencing was in the form of a typical Fencing Club meeting; Rugby Football was represented by a series of fitness training exercises; and badminton was shown in a display match. In these as in all departments the emphasis was placed upon presenting boys at their normal tasks, and throughout the School boys worked with whole-hearted enthusiasm to show *their* School at its best for this special occasion. In all its impressive diversity, the new Wandsworth School remains one in its service to its fine tradition inherited from the past.

K.N.N.



Scene in the Science Block.
(Photos by G. W. C. Wort)

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

1895 *Day Science School* opened in the newly founded Wandsworth Technical Institute in the High Street, S.W.18., with two masters and 34 boys.
The Building was a converted Skating Rink!

1896 Girls were admitted, the School consisting of 17 girls and 38 boys.
The courses were identical, except that the girls took Domestic Economy instead of Woodwork.
Dr. Waite was appointed to the Staff.

1900 Dr. Waite began his long service as Headmaster. Latin was introduced and a games field obtained. Free tickets for swimming in the new Baths close by, were issued.

1902 School roll 172 (102 boys and 70 girls). Messrs. Phillimore and Powell appointed. The School this year received a grant from the Board of Education (under the 1902 Act). The name of he School was changed to The *Wandsworth Technical Institute Secondary School.*

1903 Gymnastics introduced into the curriculum.

1904 German introduced as a School subject.

1906 Old Wandsworthians' Association founded. This year the School experienced its First Inspection by the Board of Education. An Iron structure was added to provide four extra classrooms.

1907 Organised games were included in the curriculum.

1908 The School Library was started with 400 volumes. A new Sports Field adjoining Southfields Station was acquired.

1909 Mayfield opened, the 120 girls being transferred thence.

1911 The first trip was organised—to Belgium.

1914 School roll 364 (all boys): Chess Club founded: *First World War* began: Out of a Service roll of 500, 98 boys lost their lives.

1916 The Twenty-Fifth anniversary of the opening of the School—which passed unnoticed!

1917 First Edition of The Link printed.

1918—End of the First World War.

1919 School roll 530.
This year saw the extension of out-of-school activities. The Choir and Orchestra were founded; also the Stamp and Nature Clubs. The Hobbies Exhibition was held for the first time.

1920 Parents' Evenings were instituted.

1922 Dramatic Society and Photographic Club started. Present site acquired for the New School Building.

1923 Debating Society founded.

1924 Historical Society instituted by Mr. Terry. The first of the Annual Shakespeare plays was performed (Dr. Jory).

1925 The School Song was sung for the first time at Speech Day.

1927 *New Building Opened in Sutherland Grove.* School name changed to Wandsworth School. The School Hymn "Foundation" was sung at the Ceremonial Opening on the 8th December.

1929 War Memorial Pavilion opened.
House names changed from Reds, Blues, etc., to Cromwell, Gibbon, Morley, Pitt (after famous local men).
War Memorial Tablet unveiled by the Bishop of Kingston.

1932 *Dr. Waite retired after 32 years service as Headmaster.*
Wandsworthians' Lodge inaugurated.
H. Raymond King succeeded Dr. Waite.
House Tutorial and Diligence Systems introduced.

1933 School became the hub of the International Summer Schools' Organisation. Annual interchange of pupils during the summer holiday periods.

1939 *Second World War:* School evacuated to Woking, where work was continued in conjunction with Woking Grammar School.

1940 School moved into Little Firs, Woking. Houses amalgamated, due to paucity of numbers, into Morgibbs and Crompitts.

1943 Wartime classes commenced at Sutherland Grove in charge of Mr. Powell.

1945 *School Jubilee Year:* celebrated by the whole School being together in Sutherland Grove after 6 years of War.

THE STORY OF WANDSWORTH SCHOOL

This is the story which was recited at the School Official Opening, the first part of which was printed in our special Jubilee Link in 1946.

Spoken by

A. W. Atkinson, D. Ayshford, P. M. Cassidy, G. W. Willis, G. W. C. Wort.

Happily, in September, 1945, our tale of tribulation came to an end, the two branches of the School joined up, and Wandsworth School passed its fiftieth birthday in its own home.

An auspicious beginning of the School's Jubilee Year.

The School was given time to settle down before the week's celebrations in the Summer term.

So that the Jubilee commemoration actually occurred in 1946.

Lord Nathan, with Lady Nathan, presided at the main ceremony.

It was on this occasion that the first part of this chronicle was spoken by five prefects.

We are repeating and continuing their story.

A notable event of the week was a Commemoration Service in Wandsworth Parish Church when a memorable sermon was preached by Rev. J. H. (now Canon) Waddington who with four other Old Boys in Holy Orders shared the conducting of the service. A Choral Ode, composed by Dr. Wardale to words by Mr. Ascher was sung by the School Choir.

Other events of the week included a Parents Day, Old Wandsworthians Day, an Open Day and a Sports Day at which Mrs. Shapcott made the formal presentation of the Shapcott Cup.

1945 marked the introduction of the regular House Assemblies on Friday mornings that have been a feature of the School week ever since.

While we are on the subject of Houses you might like to know that in the later years of evacuation the shrinkage of numbers led to the coalescence of the Houses in pairs, in which they were known as Morgibbs and Crompitts.

The Annual Play on the pre-war pattern was revived in December, 1946. "Androcles and the Lion" however, marked a break in the tradition of Shakespeare plays.

In 1947 the Wandsworthians Memorial Fund was launched in a joint appeal by School, Governors, Parents Association, Old Wandsworthians and the Wandsworthians Lodge.

Its immediate object was a Memorial Plaque which, in due course, was unveiled on 11th November, 1949 at a moving ceremony in the School Hall by Air Chief Marshall, Lord Dowding, Chief of Fighter Command in the Battle of Britain.

But the Memorial Committee hoped eventually to achieve a more ambitious object as a worthy and fitting memorial: A Sports Ground for Old Boys of the School.

During the ten years that have elapsed since then, the Committee—have explored every avenue and left no stone unturned.

The most conspicuous drive has come from the Old Wandsworthians Rugby Section.

But it was not until the present year that the chance occurred to purchase a suitable piece of ground for development.

With at last a tangible and practicable plan as the basis of a renewed appeal.

All boys of the School, past, present and future have a stake in this enterprise.

And as Napoleon might have said, every Wandsworth recruit has an Old Wandsworthians tie in his satchel.

To get back to our chronicle:

In 1947 began our association with the Technical Branch.

This School originated as the London or home section of the evacuated Brixton Junior Technical School.

But it had grown too large for the parent school to re-absorb it after the war.
The idea of giving the Headmaster charge of this school as well as the grammar school was gradually to integrate the two schools.
Which might have happened sooner had not the L.C.C. removed the Technical Branch from Merton Road to Garratt Lane.
So that in practice for some years it remained virtually a separate school in charge of Mr. Makin, appointed in 1949 from the Grammar School staff.
On the scholastic side the Branch continued to recruit pupils in four streams at the age of 13 for three-year technical courses, either general or craft-biassed, based on Building as the centre of interest.
The social side was developed on lines parallel to those of the Grammar School and a House and Tutorial system instituted.
The Houses were named Gainsborough, Scott, Smeaton and Wren—great names in the history of Art and Architecture.
The School Magazine first appeared in 1950 and was published annually for 6 years.
Its very appropriate name, the Pyramid, was adopted as the winning suggestion in a competition among the boys.
Old Boys and Parents Associations were instituted.
The former had a spasmodic existence but the latter developed strongly under the wise chairmanship of Mr. Chalk and firm staff support.
As soon as the Building Plan for the new school was settled, the process of integration began.
A shuttle bus service was started.
Boys of eleven were recruited for the school as a whole and a Form 1 was based in the Garratt Lane building.
This form exchanged places with another Form 1 based in Sutherland Grove for half the week.
Recruitment to the combined school and transfer between the two parts were increased until by 1955, a majority of boys at Garratt Lane were Wandsworth School pupils.
So that when the time came to join forces, the new school was not faced with the problem of absorbing " a foreign body ".
To return again to the story of the Main School:
The pre-war Hobbies Exhibition was revived in the Spring of 1947 and combined with other activities to form the new annual Eisteddfod.
We have always owed a lot to members of Staff from the Principality.
The cup presented by Mayfield to commemorate their wartime sojourn here was the first Eisteddfod Trophy.
Wandsworth's reputation for activity in the international field was recognised in various ways by Unesco.
The first of a number of tasks we did for Unesco was the sorting and packaging of thousands of C.O.1 photographs to provide teaching material for schools in the devastated countries.
Extract from the Grindelward Echo for 12th August, 1947: " A young Englishman named Paul Brunning, entirely unaccustomed to mountaineering, climbed the Faulhorn last Saturday in 3 hours ".
Brunning had been awarded an L.C.C. Mod. Lang Travel Scholarship for 3 months study abroad.
We have upon occasions won three of these valuable scholarships in a single year.
But who will be the next Wandworthian to win, as Clive Wilson did, a Rotary Foundation Fellowship of £1,000 for a year's study at the Harvard School of Business Administration?
In 1948 Mr. Keyte with the help of Mr. Makin and Mr. Robilliard organised the first " Week in Industry " at the invitation of Messrs. Stewart and Lloyds at the new iron town of Corby in Northamptonshire.
In 1948 at the first Speech Day since before the war, Mr. George Tomlinson, Minister of Education, presented the prizes.
He said that for courtesy Wandsworth boys were " the best lot in London ".

The Sixth Form was beginning to build up again. In 1950 three boys got places at Cambridge and in 1952 three boys at Oxford.
In 1951 occurred the death of Dr. Waite, the first headmaster, 19 years after his retirement.
Two headmasters have carried the School forward to its 63rd year.
Is this a record?
In 1951 the Parents Association presented the School with a stage proscenium as a Festival Year Commemoration Gift.
And Lord Hailsham presented the Prizes.
In 1952 as another task for Unesco the School helped an Arab Refugee School at Aqabet Jaber.
In a touching letter of thanks, three of the Arab pupils began:
" Our school lies on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho " . . .
This modern Good Samaritan story was highlighted in the 1954 Unesco Calendar and the name of Wandsworth School went round the world.
In 1951 the W. H. Rhodes Canadian Tour was revived and N. Roberts, Head Boy was selected to take part.
As more recently last year's Joint Head Prefects were both selected: Hore in 1956 and Simons in 1957.
1953 was Coronation Year and also marked the 21st anniversary of the Parents Association and of the present Headmaster's appointment.
The Parents presented a handsome Fives Trophy and the Headmaster's Eisteddfod Trophy to mark the occasion.
In 1953 the Mendola Medal, a high scientific distinction was awarded to Dr. Basil Weedon.
The last match played in the School Field before building operations began was against Swansea Grammar School on the morning of the England-Wales Rugby International at Twickenham in January, 1954.
At the end of 1953 Mr. Allen the Schoolkeeper retired after 42 years with the School: and Mr. Catto, School Secretary, after 20 years.
All these things seemed to mark the end of an epoch.
—or the beginning.
1955-56 was the year of transition.
The forms were re-named to suit the new pattern.
The Lower School naming its forms from the non-recurring letters of the Greek Gnothi de seauton (Know then thyself) was separately organised.
The Main School made similar use of the letters of the Greek word Pantheoreticos, suggesting the unity in variety of its wide range of studies.
Owing to the hold-ups in building operations, three plans had to be devised for the opening of the Autumn Term 1956. Full occupation, partial occupation, or no occupation at all.
And in the end it proved to be no occupation until the following January.
We had to find a temporary home for our 410 new eleven year olds.
The recently vacated Elliott Building was taken over and all Forms 1 placed there, in charge of Mr. Bacchus.
Finally in January, 1957, all three branches of the School came together on the one site.
The Grammar School with 550 boys.
The Technical Branch with 350.
The Lower School with 410.
A total of over 1,300 boys.
Professor Dorothy Tarrant, retiring Vice-Chairman of Governors, presented the prizes at the first combined Speech Day in the new Grand Hall.
And here the Chronicle stops—to be picked up again, perhaps, by the Prefects of 1995 when the School will have reached its centenary.
And in that perspective there is little doubt that they will see clearly why Wandsworth led the way into the new age of secondary education.
Firstly, because it built upon a sound and tried grammar school tradition and lived up to the standards that such a tradition demanded.
Secondly, because it was able to incorporate from the start the experience

and tradition of technical education stemming from the Brixton School of Building.

Thirdly, because the School retained its full identity throughout: its expansion was gradual and planned as a result of many years thinking. In did not have to face all its problems at once or to improvise hasty solutions.

Fourthly, because of its long experience of a well tried system of human and social relations in the School.

Fifthly, because, earlier than other schools, it responded to the expanding demands that the second half of the 20th century made upon secondary education, in the spirit of enterprise that has marked so much of its history.

This is our faith and in this faith " We Serve ";

May whatsoever things in our past are honourable and of good report inspire the present generation and the generations that come after to compose gallantly and generously Wandsworth School's unfolding story.

THE SCHOOL WAR CRY.

During the recital of " The story of Wandsworth School " the prefects mentioned that we have been unable to trace the actual date of origin of the School War Cry. We print the following two items without comment.

—Editor.

7th November, 1957.

To the Editor,

Dear Sir,

During the recital of the " History of Wandsworth School " delivered so interestingly and beautifully by the prefects at this evenings function at the School, I was somewhat surprised to hear it mentioned that the origin of the School war cry was shrouded in mystery.

I attended the School from 1932 to 1938 and even as long ago as that we thought that we had satisfactorily solved this question. And so, for what is is worth, I give you the version that circulated at that time—as near as I can remember it.

As might well be expected, it was the much-loved but redoubtable Mr. Ascher who had a hand in such a blood-curdling concoction, and to him properly belongs the authorship of the cry. The story runs thus.

It appears that one day, when all the boys were supposed to be out of the classrooms and assembled in the Hall, Mr. Ascher discovered several truants who had settled themselves in Classroom " G ", in every expectation of comfortably cutting the assembly. He naturally descended upon the miscreants in the full fury of his wrath and vented his emotions in his characteristic manner. Some remarkable events then took place in the sequence.

(1) Mr. Ascher bade the boys to vacate the room.
(2) He bellowed at them as only he could.
(3) He uttered voluble and incomprehensible expletives, the meaning of which are unknown to this day, but which could be either his own private code or an altogether laudable attempt to shield the ears of his victims from more orthodox but damaging swear-words.
(4) He then ended by apostrophising " Wandsworth " in tones of absolute disgust that it should be capable of breeding such indiscipline, thereby causing him more anxiety and grey hairs than any advance in age could occasion.

It will now be seen how the cry originated by following it step by step as set out above.

(1) " Come aht er 'G' , come aht er 'G' , come aht, come aht ".
(2) " Kiari, "kiari, WAH ! ".
(3) " *** ? ! ** ? L /P !O ?R ****FT % ! Z ".
(4) " WANDSWORTH ! ".

It need hardly be said that Mr. Ascher had no idea of creating the cry as an addition to his two other splendid pieces of work—the School Song and Hymn. His only intention was to put the fear of the Almighty into the boys, and that he succeeded in so doing is evident from the fact that in recounting the episode afterwards the culprits could only imperfectly recall the words he had used. It is to their mis-translation or mis-interpretation of his outburst that the cry in its ultimate form was due. And so electrifying and awe-inspiring was the effect of these words on that imperishable group of boys that they thereupon decided that the formula could well be used for the similar purpose of intimidating opponents of the School on the rugger field. From that, it grew into a general rallying cry and entered into the history of the Schools' annals where, it is to be hoped, that it will always find a place.

And if, Sir, you and your readers consider this to be an apocryphal account of the origin of the cry—I would pose you this question. Can you think of a more likely one?"

Yours sincerely,

"KAMATE".

MAGIC LETTERS.

In the days when your predecessors inhabited tin tabernacles in the valley of the lesser river, a man of great medical learning came every Friday afternoon from across the greater river to examine a certain number of the inhabitants. Then, as now, the prefects had a large hand in these medical affairs and they prepared room 24 for the examination. They obtained a dessertspoon, a tumbler containing water (to which in his more enthusiastic moods the medical man would add a pinkish tablet) and a sight testing card. The first two they placed on the table and the third they hung on the wall.

Then, as (often) now, the prefects summoned the examinees from their classes and then, as now, the prefects were an obliging race whose main object in life was to make the wheels of Wandsworth run smoothly. Thus, it was, if one master said, "But such and such a one is doing a test", or, "another is in the middle of an experiment", the prefect would depart in peace and seek a room where the master was only too pleased to provide some examinees.

Now it may be embarrassing or even frightening to a small boy to be, of a sudden, hauled from his class for a mysterious purpose. Then, as now, the prefects could not bear to see a small boy frightened or embarrassed so those assembled were promptly and thoroughly briefed that they might acquit themselves well in the task that lay ahead. Oh, my friends, had the diligence system then been in operation how many "ones" would have been scored for the pains taken in learning the bottom line of that sight card.

Trained to the very peak of perfection for the first hurdle the examinee entered and almost ere the words "read the bottom line of the sight card", had left that follower of Hippocrates, and often before the card had been located, he blurted out the magic letters and received grunted congratulations on his excellent sight. The ice having been broken the next question, "What time do you go to bed?" and the inevitable response of, "Make it half an hour earlier", only inspired further confidence even in the least bold. To, "Do you drink tea?" the answer whether negative or affirmative received the comment, "Tea is no good to boys. Drink Cocoa". Then the spoon came into action and gave its chinking obligato, as it bounced from tooth to tooth, to the remark, "One or two teeth there require attention. See-your-dentist.-Next-boy-please". Which particular teeth were the offenders was never revealed.

In time, it mattered not whether the sight card displayed its lettered or its plain side or even if it were hung in a corner too dark for it to be seen for every boy was letter perfect in recital and many regarded it as "the done thing" to stand with back to the card when "reading" the bottom line.

Soon the recital was no longer confined to the medical room and whenever Wandsworth boys were in a situation charged with emotion they would give utterance to those magic letters, which you all know to this very day—L.P.O.R.F.D.Z.

J.H.H.C.

ELECTRONICS Until the Industrial Revolution at the beginning of the 19th century, man used muscles for power, either his own or those of animals, to operate the simple tools used in industry or agriculture. Since then, coal, steam, oil and electricity have in turn produced changes resulting in the highly-mechanised world of to-day. Streams of electrons flowing along wires and cables drive mills and lathes, and heat and illuminate factories and homes. Further, these powerful currents can be changed at will by feebler electronic currents acting through relays, valves or transistors controlled by a single man—or even a photo-electric cell!

The science of electronics is now displacing the human functions of detection and control; electronic instruments can "see" and "feel" and "hear" and react to what they find just like a human-being will sense things and react accordingly. Some electronic computors can even read and write, play chess and translate one language into another!

Mechanical calculating machines go back some three hundred years but the modern computor, using electronics to solve problems, can do in seconds what in a mechanical device may take minutes and the human brain, hours; and, what is more, without any possibility of mistake! Further, electronic devices are comparatively simple to build and maintain, and require the minimum of precision engineering, unlike mechanical computors. Using the transistor (merely a small crystal and piece of wire) instead of the more bulky thermionic valve, computing machines can be made smaller, sturdier, more efficient and cheaper than ever before.

One of the earliest applications of the electronic calculator was weather forecasting, observations from thousands of posts all over the world coming in, being sorted out and lined up to give an accurate picture of what was happening and was going to happen in the immediate future. Similar work is done with regard to the tides in all parts of the world.

It will be impossible to wage any future war, should there foolishly be one, without the assistance of electronic computors. A supersonic missile will have to be radar detected, its path worked out and a counter supersonic missile launched and guided to destroy it before it can reach its target.

We live in an era of big organisations: big business, big industries, big public services and unfortunately, at times, big heads. Many of our social and political problems are due to size, the controllers being too detached from the people for whose welfare they are responsible. Information from large numbers of people can be quickly assessed by electronic computors and produce the necessary accurate information to enable controllers to come to rapid and fair decisions.

Who knows but that some day it may be possible to have world government through the agency of the electronic computor.

THE 10th WEEK IN INDUSTRY
SHEFFIELD AND THE PEAK DISTRICT

The area chosen for the "Week in Industry" last Summer term was Sheffield and the Peak District. The party was considerably smaller than last year's party to Scotland, numbering only twelve, including the two masters in charge—Mr. Spearing and Mr. Gouldstone. The story of any "Week in Industry" is too long to set out fully, therefore I shall try to convey only personal impressions.

After attending two preliminary talks on the area from Mr. John Hynd, M.P., and an official from the Coal Board, we felt that we knew quite a lot about the area. How wrong we were!

A four hour train journey from Marylebone Station to Victoria Station, Sheffield (they also have one), after Nottingham passed through endless

lines of coal tip-heaps, opencast ironstone workings, coke ovens, and all the signs of a great industrial area.

First impressions of Sheffield were pretty ghastly. We saw the river Don as we came out of the Station, absolutely black, with floating masses of detergent on its surface. However, first impressions are deceptive, for quite a few of us later changed our minds.



The background of Sheffield.

(Photos by P. G. Lewis)

Almost immediately we went to a lecture given by a member of the Sheffield Town Planning Department, before rushing off to Crewe Hall, a Sheffield University Hostel, which was to be our base for the first week. We each had a room of our own, with plenty of cupboards and chests of drawers in which to put our clothes and rucksacks. We were thoroughly well fed, and I often wonder why we needed a midday lunch when we visited places of interest.

The day after our arrival, Tuesday, we were to visit Silverwood Colliery near Rotherham. The best part of this visit seemed to be scrambling along the coalface 3′ 6″ high, and 1,800 ft. below the surface. Oily pitprops, large jagged lumps of slatey coal cutting into our knees, and coal dust down the back of the neck, from the roof, seem to be the main hazards. Also the helmets, with which we were provided, could get knocked over one's eyes, or someone's flailing boot could catch one unawares, as we were crawling single file. The furious activity of the steam-driven pistons working the winding mechanism of the main colliery shaft; the miner's "cage" plumetting down the shaft; two pit-ponies; and the palatial pithead baths; seem to stick in my mind most vividly.

The next industry to be studied was the Iron and Steel Industry, the next three days being spent at three large steelworks and a small cutlery firm. All the many sides of heavy industrial production were fascinating. We were often either fried or dazzled by the heat and light from an openhearth furnace, or choked by carbon monoxide fumes from the "soaking pits" where five-ton steel ingots are stored at red heat. The electric furnace, with graphite electrodes glowing a dull red, I found the most interesting, although nothing could surpass the tapping of an openhearth furnace, and

seeing the steel bubbling away, like water in a kettle. The party also saw the forging of huge cylinders and blocks using 7,000 ton presses. These presses obviously needed most delicate handling, cylinder boring was also extremely interesting. When I spoke to a man on this job, he said that his cylinder was to be used as a boiler in a power station, and would take at least nine days to bore! The transformation of blobs of molten steel into railway axles by a press was quite miraculous. It is enough to say that we were all amazed by what we saw.

The visit to a small cutlery firm provided an interesting contrast to the big industrial plants. We could talk to people on the job more easily, people who were rich in character, and in these workers I felt that we saw the real Sheffield personality, kind and helpful. A newspaper photographer took some photographs of us while we toured the building, and some boys appeared in an evening edition of the *Sheffield Star*. This visit passed all too quickly.



Drain putting on knife handles.

By the time Saturday arrived, we had got through a week of crammed activity. That day we visited an old forge at Wortley Top, on the way to Barnsley. The weather was very poor, not only on this particular day, but on the whole trip generally, with only a few exceptions. We had dinner that day in the stack of a disused blast furnace, before walking on to Barnsley.

The next day, Sunday, we started out into the Peak District. In the intermittent rain, we visited Ladybower Dam and Filter Plant, but the "keeper", who was to show us around, was unfortunately absent. We then spent two days in the area around Edale Youth Hostel, especially on Kinderscout. We were engaged on biological and geographical field work on the Kinderscout valleys, and the peaty areas on the flat top of Kinderscout. The party then moved on to the next Youth Hostel, going through the Winnats Pass on the way. The Blue John Caverns and Speedwell Lead Mines were interesting visits. In the lead mine we paddled along the underground working in a boat, as the mine was flooded. The party then divided into two, one party taking a more direct but difficult

route. We both eventually arrived at Ravenstor. My party experienced some difficulty in finding the Youth Hostel, which was on the top of ridge. The next morning, Wednesday, was spent polishing a rather large, wood-block floor. That was our chore for our stay at the hostel, which was probably the most comfortable hostel on the tour.

We then walked to Buxton along a very narrow valley. The path wandered along the valley side, with the bank overhanging steeply. Mud and huge nettle beds lay ahead, but we made good progress. We visited a Limestone Quarry, and saw blasting operations. We eventually neared Buxton Youth Hostel. On the last day, Thursday, we visited a Cattle Research Station of the Milk Marketing Board, before departing by a different route to St. Pancras.

So ended a very successful "Week in Industry", thanks to the organisation of the masters in charge. The weather did not make the trip any less enjoyable. The fanatical train and tram enthusiasts certainly had full value, and all of us had interesting projects to write up in detail afterwards.

BRIAN C. JOHNSTON, U6Ec., Mc.

THE DAY THE ROAD CAVED IN

In September a firm of sewerage contractors were laying new sewers in my street. The road was in very bad condition at the side of the trench that they were digging. They had a crane for getting the dirt out of the



(Photo by William C. Clampit)

trench. One day the crane was moving along the road when suddenly the road caved in and the crane toppled over and fell down the trench. The crane driver who was in the crane at the time was not hurt. The foreman said to the man, "Why did you go near the edge of the trench?". The man did not answer. Soon a crane came weighing 23 tons. It tried to pull it out but the chain snapped. Five minutes later they had fixed another chain to the jib and started hauling up the crane. It lifted the crane right off the ground. The weight of the small crane is about 6 tons. The

workmen told us to keep well back for the crane's jib might fall on top of us. Some of the old women were telling the boys not to get too near the hole. At six o'clock everybody started home for tea including me, thus ending an eventful day in the history of Kingwood Road, S.W.6.

STEPHEN HOWARD CLAMPIT, Form 1.

WINTER.

When the sun has lost its heat,
And grass feels stiff beneath our feet,
When trees reveal their winter selves,
Like little, brown mischievous elves,
When paths are hard and fields are bare,
And fog stays solid in the air,
When winds are cold and days are short,
Having a home is a lovely thought.

GEOFFREY FEIST, Form 1.

THE SATELLITE

The satellite is still going round,
But I have not heard a bleep or sound,

The scientists are beginning to worry,
They hope it won't come down in a hurry.

The Russians are very clever indeed,
To try and try and then to succeed.

T. MCNELLY, Form 1.

ITALY—LAND OF SUNSHINE.

The land of Italy is perhaps the most beautiful country in Europe. When Hannibal the famous general invaded the country in days gone by, he had to take his Army, complete with baggage, animals and even elephants, through rocky passes made dangerous by melting snow and ice and the possibility of falls of thousands of feet into the rocky ravines far below.

However, on the six holidays I have already spent in Italy, I have travelled in much greater comfort—by train, via the marvellous Simplon tunnel and thence on to Milan, the industrial capital of the country. My destination has been a small town nestling high up in the glorious Appenine country midway between the two great cities of Bologna and Florence.

It would take more space than I have been given here to describe Florence, sitting astride the River Arno, famed for its beautiful old churches and the Wonderful Duomo Cathedral; and the mediæval Ponte Vecchio, a bridge lined with ancient houses and shops and one of the few bridges across the Arno that escaped the ravages of the German retreat in the last war.

It is perhaps not many British children of my age who have been so fortunate as to visit Rome. One of the most impressive of the old Roman imperial buildings to be seen there is the Colosseum. This great stone amphitheatre was dedicated by the Roman Emperor Titus in A.D. 80, and provided seats for 90,000 people. There were held the games and spectacles which used to delight the Roman mobs, and where the early Christian martyrs were set to fight wild beasts to amuse the Emperor. The Pantheon in old times was a Temple of the Roman gods, but since the year 600 it has been used as a Christian Church. The Pantheon is the resting place of Raphael, the great painter and sculptor, and of Italian kings.

Naples is perhaps the most beautiful city in the south of Italy, and a well known saying is " see Naples and die ". The great volcanic bulk of rock called Vesuvius towers over the city giving forth always a thin wisp of

ominous smoke, and on the many occasions throughout history when it has actually erupted, belching forth flame and smoke.

I have visited two other great cities of Italy. Firstly Venice, a place which will always be most vivid in my memory—situated on a hundred small islands with over a hundred and fifty canals crossed by four hundred bridges. A long sandbank called the Lido protects it from the Adriatic storms, and when I visited it was bathed in sunshine. We toured Venice by gondola down the Grand Canal. At the end I alighted on the steps of St. Marks Piazzo and went into the marvellous St. Mark's Cathedral. Inside the masterpieces of Canaletto, Veronese, Tintoretto and other famous men are to be seen. Outside are the endless winding streets with the inumerable canals and tiny bridges that cross them.

Secondly, but by no means last—Bologna—famous for its many fine buildings including its University, the oldest in Europe, and for its wonderful culinary dishes, the most renowned of which is " Tagliatelle alla Bolognese " which I have tasted many times and found really delicious! One of Bologna's most famous citizens was Signor Marconi, and just outside Bologna we visited his house which has his tomb built underneath it.

The remainder of my time has been spent in the beautiful wooded Appenine country I first mentioned, where the air is as clear and as heady as the " Vino Bianco " and the " Vino Rosso " for which the district is famed.

Everywhere we met with courtesy and hospitality from the happy, voluble people who live in this beautiful country. I can never forget how kind they have always been to me, and how very much I have enjoyed my days spent with them in the wonderful warm sunshine. The poorest Italian would not dream of letting a visitor pass on without an invitation to a meal and a drink to help him on his way.

It is true that Rome was once renowned for her military might, but the modern Italy, since its unity into a nation under Garibaldi, its people's natural sunny temperament and the wonderful climate and scenery with which a bountiful nature has provided her, would probably have in any case destined Italy's role in the world to be that of a country attracting peace-loving tourists to her shores. This is surely a far greater virtue for a country to be remembered by than that it should go down in history famed for its exploits as a warrior race?

For my part, I hope to have the chance to visit " bella Italia " on many more occasions yet and gather an even greater treasure-store of cherished, happy memories.

R. POPPELSDORFF, Form 1.

MEETING THE WORLD

Probably the luckiest thing that has ever come my way was a chance to go to the " Jubilee Jamboree " held at Sutton Coldfield. It all started at the 1st East Putney's Xmas party. A Committee had been formed and all Scouts who wished to go were interviewed. When my turn came my knees were knocking together but the Committee soon put me at my ease. At the end of the party it was announced that I and my friend, Terry Morris, had been chosen.

About a month later I attended a meeting. There I was introduced to the Skipper who was to take us and our Bosun and Quartermaster. Unfortunately my friend had to drop out of the Troop and I was very disheartened about this. All boys in the Troop were issued with a Jamboree handbook telling us the part we were to play in it. Also with two London scarves and a badge each. The time for our departure into the great journey had almost come.

On July 29th I made my way to East Putney Station where the Scouts from Wa-Pu-Ro had photos taken and purchased a party ticket to Euston. There we were weighed wearing our kit with amazing results as I weighed $10\frac{1}{2}$ stones. After being checked at Euston we marched to the train and bundled on it. I got stuck in the door creating a disturbance. It didn't

seem long before we arrived at Sutton Coldfield and as we marched from the station we were surrounded by gaily coloured posts and flagstaffs, and also passed thousands of notices and the camp hospital which was immense. At the top of a rise we saw the whole splendid camp site spread as far as the eye could see.

Thursday, August 1st, was the opening ceremony, the camp being completed and all contingents having arrived. At 2.30 we marched into the Arena. The Duke of Gloucester declared the Jamboree open and then inspected Scouts from a land rover. Saturday, August 3rd, was the Royal Visit. A 2 o'clock we stood at the camp centre waiting for the Queen to come along. On Sunday (4th) we all went to " Scouts Own ". The hymns and lessons were printed in English, French and German. In the afternoon was an international tea party. I was one of the hosts and soon became friends with three Norwegians. On August 5th, there was an Arena Display depicting the life of Baden-Powell and the defence of Mafeking. After this we had two American Scouts to dinner, they were very amusing and told us about life in New York. By bedtime rain was pouring down and lightning frequent, and next morning I found my patrol was the only one to escape a soaking. All other patrols had gone into the big marquee when the storm had soaked all belongings. Nearly all kitchens were flooded so my patrol cooked for the rest of the Troop. A great part of the day was spent in drying clothes. Saturday (10th), it was drizzling so the last Sub-Camp camp fire was held in a large marquee. On Sunday (11th), Lord Rowallan read the lesson. The U.K. contingent invited all other contingents to tea, our troop being allotted the Finns and Nigerians. Monday (12th), Closing Ceremony at 11. All kit was packed. We gathered in a circle to have our last troop meeting and received our U.K. contingent souvenir. At 11.35 our Skipper dismissed the troop for the last time.

As I stepped on the platform at Euston I knew the Jamboree was over. It wasn't really and never will be; I shall remember this great experience as long as I go on living. It will never fade from my memory.

V. B. JENKINS, L5, Cb.

BUS CONDUCTORS. It all starts when you are a little boy of four. You set out on a wonderful long journey, riding on a bus. There is so much to see—if only you could reach the window, but since you are only four you cannot see anything.

At last, so eager to reach the window, you kneel on the seat. Before you, you can see the wonderful world, cars, people, advertisements, shops and all the things you can think of. You gaze wide eyed and thrilled.

Then suddenly a fearful voice says, " Off the seat sonny, you will make it dirty ". Yes, it is the conductor.

The years go by you grow a little older. One day coming from school you feel terribly ill. Those green apples must have done it. You wait for the bus feeling you are going to die any minute. At last the bus comes. You dash forward and onto the bus. With relief you flop down on the seat. The bus fills up you thank your lucky stars that you have gained a seat.

" Off the seat, son, a lady wants to sit down ". It is the conductor. Standing up, you glance behind you. The " lady " is just a young slip of a girl who could remain standing. You could have given her a piece of your mind but since you are ill you do not want trouble.

You grow older and bigger and still pay half-fare. If you ask for half-fare the conductor does not believe you and makes what he calls funny comments.

A year later, no longer a " half-fare passenger ", you feel a man. Then much to your embarrassment the conductor offers half-fare.

You grow older. You are on the bus with your girl friend in a romantic conversation. She is just going to say " yes "—

" FARE'S PLEASE! " It is the conductor. To impress the girl friend you give him a pound note. Instead of saying, " Oh thank you, sir. It

will lighten my bag ". The conductor sniffs and bawls, " 'Ave you no less?"

Then on purpose he puts his hand in the bag and dishes out handfulls of small coins. He gives the change in tiny half-pennies. You could argue but the conductor looks ready to murder you. So you fill all your pockets with jingling coins and stagger home.

On the other hand, you have a pound note and say with good manners, " Could you please change this note for three half-pence?"

" Which stop?", says the conductor.

" The next one please ".

" All right son, 'opp off. I'll let you off this time ".

" Thank you very much ", and jump off the bus.

Years and years later, incidents like these still happen during daily life. By now you are growing older and greyer. Then suddenly, you grow older no more. But your ghost still hates BUS CONDUCTORS.

S. NANDANWAR, 3Iota, Ci/j.

MY FIRST TELEVISION APPEARANCE. It was 6 o'clock on the 21st October in the evening and we had just started to collect money for our fireworks for November 5th in a way which we call " old guying ". Altogether there were about ten of us and then all of a sudden a man came up to us and said, " Do you want to be on television, but you must be over twelve years old ". As there were only three of us over twelve he picked us.

He then took us to Lime Grove Studios and we went to Studio " D ". When we looked around us there were cameras and lights almost everywhere. Then Richard Dimbleby came over to us and asked us a few questions such as, " How many years have you been doing this?" and, " Is this your first night out this year?"

We then had one rehearsal for the positioning of the cameras and lights. After that we went down to the canteen to have some lemonade and some cake.

The programme then started and before very long we were on. Richard Dimbleby asked us some questions. When we had finished we went outside the studios with our guys, we got in a taxi and went home.

P. PELLING, 3Alpha, Cb.

KARATE. Karate is a ferocious art that was founded 1,300 years ago during the Liang dynasty in China. Thousands of people learn Judo. Police men and women learn it to-day, clubs are being founded all over the country. There is one exactly opposite where I live, but Judo is called " sissy " by the Karate men.

It enables a man to hit a brick wall with all his might without the risk of injuring himself, shatter ten tiles in a lightning kick and split thick planks with a punch.

It was founded by wandering Buddhist priests to repel robbers, as it was considered ungodly to carry weapons. It is based on the fact that there are five striking surfaces, the fist, fingertips, elbow, edge of hand and the ball of the foot, and 37 vulnerable spots in the human body, on seven of which a hit would prove fatal.

During the second World War, the Japanese overlords refused to allow the Okinawans to carry weapons. Then, soldiers were found dead and the only mark on the body was a small bruise. Soon, they were endowed with a great respect for Karate and took it back to Japan as a sport.

A post covered wth coarse rope is used as a punchbag, and hand and foot are swung at it with ever increasing momentum until they can be used all out. At least a thousand punches and kicks a day are recommended by teachers.

After a blow is struck there is no follow through as in boxing. The entire body stiffens on the moment of impact and is instantly relaxed to retain

balance. The foot is as important as the hand in Karate. A small man can knock out a tall man with a high kick to the neck without losing balance despite huge force and speed. You are probably wondering if anybody ever survives a Karate contest. Blows are stopped an inch or less from their target and judges decide what would have happened if the blow had landed.

In practice accuracy of the hands is developed by use of a long, thin metal spike with a handle. Muscles in the legs and the arms are built up by wearing cast-iron gloves and clogs. The hands are clenched so tightly that calluses form inside the hand and the knuckles become huge as they too are callused.

A strong religious flavour runs throughout Karate training. The stance is not unlike that of Kongorikishi, the Buddhist equivalent of Hercules. It is also like he old-time puglists' stance with head high, legs firmly apart and fists tightly clenched held well in front of the body. They breathe in through the nose and expel it through the mouth with an ear-splitting yell.

F. R. SHONS, U5Sc, Gc.

ASIAN 'FLU

Tommy tootled off to school, whistling on his way,
Called upon his bosom pal Sammy Shuttlegay.
Sister, answering the door, said, " Mother's in a stew.
Sammy's very ill in bed; got the Asian 'Flu ".
Tommy thought of lessons and homework not yet done,
Rather envied Sammy and wished he'd been the one.

The next day was as usual, lessons just the same.
Flinging pellets round the room, one just missed its aim,
Hit the prefect on the jaw, which truly was a sight.
End by poor Tommy having 300 lines to write.
Went home in a temper and feeling rather blue,
Wished that he had got this 'ere Asian 'Flu.

He woke up next morning—felt that he was dying,
Mother'd heard all this before—thought that he was lying.
He tried to stand upon his feet the room began to spin,
His head tight and muzzy, life really felt so grim;
His eyes began to water, he'd a pain behind his knees,
He thought that he would split in two each time he tried to sneeze.

The doctor came and shook his head, his temperature was rising,
He couldn't eat a single thing which was really not surprising.
He took his pills and medicine that tasted just like glue,
The doctor said it was just the stuff to combat Asian 'Flu,
He wondered why he'd envied Sammy being ill in bed,
And he felt so very ill himself he wished that he was dead.

He went back like a lamb to school feeling strange and shy,
His pals all gathered round him to know the reason why.
Everything look good to him, he was so glad to be back,
He even thought the women smart wearing the new " Sack ",
And he didn't grumble once when they dished him up the stew,
The only time he shuddered was when he thought of Asian 'Flu.

T. AUSTIN, 3kappa, Ci/j.

A RAINY AFTERNOON. We have just finished lunch and are all set to go fishing. Mother, Father, Grandma, Aunt Bessie and the children are coming, Bonzo the dog too. After shutting the front gate Father notices that the sky is very clear except for a big black

cloud over to the left. Then it starts to pour. Grimly, we rush back into the house and unpack. Mother takes in the washing and goes into the living-room with Grandma and Aunt Bessie and watch "Daily Gossip for Women" on television. That's the women settled and Father goes upstairs to have an afternoon nap.

Bitterly disappointed, we reluctantly settle down to a game of cards. Halfway through the game Baby starts bawling and Minnie has to amuse him in some way. That has finished our game of cards so we try to sit by the window and watch the rain. For fifteen minutes all is peace until a crash of thunder rocks the house. Aunt Bessie scoots down the coal-cellar and after five minutes she comes up shaking with fright. After she has recovered she goes into the dining-room and gives us an uninteresting talk about her visit to France. This becomes very boring and when the rain has calmed down Mother and Grandma come in with a refreshing tray of coffee and hot scones.

D. Bateman, 2, Gc.

THE AQUALUNG. When I first put the apparatus on and gradually sank into the school pool, the first thing I noticed was the cold; perhaps this was because I felt a little frightened. As I submerged I saw what it was really like under water. The bath seemed to be a huge room getting deeper and deeper, and when I reached the bottom I saw leaves and pieces of dust from the outside world which all seemed very unreal as if blown by a noiseless wind in the twilight. I think not every one would like the chance of what I experienced. I sat on the bottom, counting tiles to take my mind off the fact that I was actually breathing underwater, but I soon got tired of that and started swimming along the bottom picking up stones. All too soon I heard a noise ringing right through the bath which startled me, it was the signal to come up; I did, taking my time.

The next day I had another turn, and this time I had more confidence and I did somersaults and swimming on my back gazing at my friends on the surface looking as if they were suspended from a ceiling. I lost direction and banged my head on the side of the pool.

Soon we had two sets of apparatus in use, and with my friend, R. Francis, it made things more cheerful and we gained more confidence. After only a few more lessons we were quite competent, and although not qualified Frogmen we earned the title of "Tadpole Boys".

D. M. White, 3tau, Ci/j.

A GREAT MAN ON EDUCATION In the seventeenth century, John Locke, a famous philosopher, wrote his "Thoughts Concerning Education". His book is about a gentleman's son having a tutor to himself for lessons as well as leisure, rather different from a teacher having a class just for lessons.

Locke thought that a child's clothes should be meagre, so that he would become immunised to cold and snowy weather. After all, he said, when we are born, the rest of our body is as naked as our face! He also thought that a child should wear leaky boots so that in later life he would not catch cold if he wetted his feet! On the question of diet, a child should not have his meals at regular times, for when he is older and travels abroad he has to adapt himself to new times for serving food. He wrote that "good dry bread and beer" made a good enough snack in between times for any child. Meals themselves should be simple. Personally, I think that in his own diet Locke most probably had chicken and cream.

Really, when I hear what he has to say about punishment, it gives me the impression he was quite a patient person. He had a theory that children should always be reasoned with. He believed that the rod should only be used in cases of obstinacy, and then the blows should be laid on slowly and hard. But in all, Locke hated punishment.

Unlike modern times, a teacher should not have a timetable. When the child felt like reading was the time to teach him. In this way, lessons would be like playtime and not a task, for if a child were told to whip his top for so many hours, even that would become irksome.

On the whole, I think John Locke was a very wise man. In every case he is telling a fable and making himself an Æsop of his time. For instance, the leaky boots point to the moral of immunity from cold. Apart from being wise, Locke was brave also, because these theories were not liked in his day. I think if he had lived in our time, he would probably have been chosen for tutor to Prince Charles.

DEREK A. THORNE, 2 Theta.

A SAD ENDING.

If every boy was good and kind,
And had no worries on his mind,
A wonderful place the world would be,
With everybody happy and free.

Impossible in this world of ours,
With homework every night for hours,
And Prefects scattered about the place,
And not a smile on a schoolboy's face.

C. BRIGHTLEY, 2, Cd.

A CYCLING HOLIDAY TO DEVON

During my Summer Holidays this year my friend and I decided to go for a cycling holiday to Devon. I already had £24 10s. 4d. saved up, and so all that I needed was £5 9s. 8d.

Several weeks before hand I booked up at six youth hostels; three each way. Finally the day came. It was pouring with rain when my friend and I left Southfields at exactly mid-night. By the time we had pedalled fourteen miles the rain had completely stopped, but the roads were very wet, and in the country they were very muddy.

After three days journey, my friend and I finally reached a little village called Molland, our destination in North Devon.

During the eight days we were there the weather was exceptionally nice. We were able to go to the coast every day, the nearest seaside resort to our hotel was twenty-two miles away. The places we visited were: Lynton, Lynmouth, Barnstable, Combe Martin, Ilfracombe and Saunton Sands.

Then came the dreaded day of our awful journey home. On the way my friend was knocked onto the pavement, and into a hedge, by a lorry. Finally we finished the 187 miles journey home, and in all we think that we must have travelled over 800 miles.

Next year I hope to have a month's touring in Ireland—on a bicycle.!

M. GOODE, 3kappa, Pa.

HOUSE NOTES.

CROMWELL

This term we give a hearty welcome to all our new Cromwellians and hope that they will soon become valuable members of this house, for at the end of last year we suffered greatly from the loss of C. M. Newson, J. W. Sharp, J. Kaminski, C. M. Burnett and D. J. Liggitt. Also we should like to welcome Mr. Walmsley to Cromwell C, Mr. Hughes to Cromwell IJ, and Mr. Williams and Mr. Warwick, who represent Cromwell in the Lower School. Congratulations should be extended to Cromwell's former Housemaster, Mr. B. Clode, on his thoroughly deserved promotion to Deputy Headmaster. We might almost say that Cromwell House is a breeding ground for Deputy Headmasters, for

Mr. R. W. Fenn preceded Mr. Clode as our Housemaster. We shall therefore experience a double loss, when Mr. Fenn retires at the end of this term. We should like to offer him special Cromwell Good Wishes for his retirement.

At the time of writing, Cromwell is still ahead of all the other houses in Diligence, thus maintaining last year's achievement. Our position this term at the top has been maintained in spite of our weaker brethren, who must " pull their socks up ".

CROMWELL!! Joey is stiil in the depths of YELLOW despair; for too many years now, we missed the " red rosette from 'neath him ".

Too long the yellow banner keeps ahead;
Remember there's no substitute for red.

Our Fives team under the supervision of J. W. Kaminski won the Fives Championship as was expected last term, but the Swimming Gala proved to be disheartening when we suffered a rather severe defeat. However, under the outstanding leadership of A. A. Agha, we retained our position at the top of the cricket table.

With the forth-coming rugby season, we look forward to great things from our team, led by M. J. Halsey, supported by D. P. Brennan. Congratulations must be extended to A. Thrower on gaining his Full Colours in rugby, and on his selection to play for the Surrey Senior Colts XV, a rare distinction.

Owing to lack of support for the captain, M. J. Cowling, and for no other reason, Cromwell regained its position—LAST—in the Cross Country. R. W. Mason distinguished himself and was the first Cromwellian home. In the Juniors, R. W. Cook, E. G. Slater and T. M. Harnley all ran well and we hope to see them doing even better next year.

By far the most important event next year is the annual Eisteddfod. This above all events needs the whole-hearted effort from ALL loyal Cromwellians if we are to pull ourselves from our miserable third position to first.

We must congratulate the following on their promotion to the post of full prefect:—A. A. Agha, M. J. Cowling, C. Green, J. E. B. Hunt, R. Müller, M. R. M. Smith. Also the following on becoming sub prefects:—A. W. Atkinson, B. J. Coleman, R. W. Mason, and the following on becoming zonal prefects:—M. J. Halsey, R. B. Newman, J. F. West, M. W. Dodd, D. P. Brennan, C. N. Crabtree.

D. AYSHFORD, U6Sc.

M. J. COWLING, U6Sc.

There is one more promotion which is thoroughly deserved. Derek Ayshford has been appointed co-Head Boy and by his energy and efficiency he is an inspiration to us all.

A. M. LINCE.

GIBBON The House compensated for its rather disappointing result in the last Eisteddfod by showing a marked enthusiasm in Cricket. Under their Captain of Cricket, P. Coppock, the House teams played extremely well, and succeeded in winning the Cricket Shield. The first half of the present term has also proved successful for Gibbon. Under the able captaincy of M. Dries, our Cross-Country teams, with diligent training, gained an easy and well-deserved first place. The House congratulates all who took part in the event.

Other officials elected this term are as follows:—Rugby, P. A. Veale; Cross-Country (junior captain), R. Smith; Fives, J. T. Francis. G. P. Douel is again in charge of our Chess team, and we feel sure that under his experienced guidance, the House will continue successful in this field. It is hoped that the members of Gibbon will support wholeheartedly their Captains, and help to attain further victory.

Diligence has proved itself on numerous awards in the past to be one of Gibbon's finer achievements. Yet we were, finally, placed only third in

the Diligence competition. Only a greater effort on the part of each individual will effect an improvement on this position, which we are capable of doing.

The return after the Christmas Holidays marks the approach of another Eisteddfod. This function offers scope for talent of every nature, and we hope that everyone in Gibbon will participate with keenness in the numerous sections, and work vigorously under the various leaders. The Eisteddfod Trophy has been away from the House for far too long. Let real enthusiasm prevail in Gibbon next term!

To conclude, we should like to welcome warmly all new members of the House, and wish them every success with their life in their new home.

G. W. WILLIS, L6Arts, Gc.
J. T. FRANCIS, U6Arts, Ga.

MORLEY We must first extend a very hearty welcome to Messrs. N. Gabriel, A. W. King, and M. Wiltshire who joined the House last September. Morley House have been fortunate enough to secure the premier position in the School. We must congratulate Gordon Wort on being selected as Head Boy for the first half of the School year. In view of the tremendous amount of work that he has undoubtedly done for the School and House, it is an admirable choice. Brian Johnston was made Second Prefect.

We must also congratulate John Davies and Peter Drain on becoming Full Prefects; and the newly-made Sub-Prefects and Pro-Prefect of Morley House: P. A. Townson, I. Thirlway, P. T. Libby, B. J. Wagstaff, and M. J. Howe.

At the first House meeting of the Term on the 24th September, with Mr. Coate-Bond, in his second year as House Master, presiding, the following House officials were elected: Gordon Wort, House and Rugby Fives Captains; John Davies, Vice-Captain of the House and Senior Rugby Captain; Brian Johnston was elected House Secretary; the Senior and Junior Cross-Country Captains are John Carr and Robert Knight; and the Fencing and Chess Captains are Peter Libby and John Joiner respectively; lastly, the House Representatives on the School Magazine Committee are Brian Johnston and Peter Drain.

In addition to posts in the House: Gordon Wort is also School Athletics and Rugby Fives Captain; and John Davies and John Carr are Captain, and Vice-Captain of Rugby.

Our record so far this year is dismal in the extreme. The Cross-Country Shield, which we have held for two years, is surrendered to Gibbon (temporarily). We did, however, gain first place in the Junior Run, R. Mitchell finishing well ahead of the field. We came third in the overall total of results, a mere shadow of our usual performance.

The Senior Run was certainly the least satisfying. John Carr must be congratulated on turning out a team at all. The loss of the Shield was due to almost complete lack of co-operation, not lack of co-ordination. John Carr had to run himself, even with a pulled muscle.

We must congratulate John Carr and John Davies for being picked for a Surrey Rugby Trial; and John Moore for his distinguished performance at the London Swimming Championships. Moore gained a "first" and a "third," a magnificent effort. We most heartily congratulate him.

"Men may come and men may go, but I go on forever." This might well be applied to Morley House. Last year Morley House carried off many of the School Trophies, due entirely to the boundless enthusiasm of last year's upper, and especially third year Sixth boys, in Richard Hore and Albert Preston. For the second year Morley has gained the offices of the first two prefects, and we might look to the future generations of Morley boys to provide these two important offices again. Last year Hore and Preston, by their relentless endeavour in striving for perfection gained the ultimate and well-deserved reward.

If " Joey " is to remain with us for another year, a fifth consecutive and record year, all complacency and apathy must be shaken off.

The House must be reminded that they will be expected to give the whole-hearted and enthusiastic support in the Inter-House Sports, such as Rugby, Athletics, and the Eisteddfod, which will take place during the remainder of the School Year. It is impossible to regain the large number of trophies that they had last year, if all the work is left to four or five senior boys.

Wake up, Morley!

BRIAN C. JOHNSTON, U6Ec, Mc.

PITT In the Inter-House Swimming Gala held at the end of last term, our team, under the able and expert captaincy of B. M. Cullum, who received full co-operation from the rest of the House, gained second place. Cullum himself won the Open Championship. We also congratulate the team for their worthy efforts. The following boys represented the House: Under 12½: M. P. G. Keen, Irving (Junior), Westley, R. J. L. Avery. Under 14: J. E. Pinnock, T. E. Irving, B. F. Brooks, D. G. Francis. Under 16: R. T. Gillam, J. F. Vickers, P. H. Everton, B. A. Burge. Open: B. M. Cullum, V. B. Hayter, G. M. North, P. M. T. Gillingham and J. A. Phillips.

I. H. Simons, last year's Head Prefect, left at the end of the Summer term. He is now studying at Trinity College, Dublin, in the Faculty of Law.

Diligence awards last year were extremely disappointing, for they did not reach the high standard which Pitt achieved the previous year when we won the Diligence Shield. In the first Diligence award this term we came second, which was a slight improvement. In the Lower School Diligence Pitt were also placed a close second to Cromwell. We hope that everyone will make a determined effort to recapture our lost prestige and the lost Diligence Shield.

At a House meeting at the beginning of term, R. T. J. Moody was elected Rugby Captain, G. L. Wilson Cross-Country Captain, G. C. Miller Fives Captain, J. H. Reynolds Chess Captain and J. G. F. Parsons Link Representative for the Spring and Summer Terms.

The House is well represented in the prefectorial body. R. J. Carr, R. T. T. Moody and P. N. Cassidy have been appointed full prefects, H. Potter, K. H. W. Denyer, M. E. Duck, B. M. Cullum, M. P. Beard, H. W. Smith, F. M. Carter, G. L. Wilson, J. G. F. Parsons and B. W. Jones sub-prefects and J. H. Cousins, pro-prefect.

This term, in the Inter-House Cross-Country Competition, our House, under the excellent leadership of G. L. Wilson, finished second. Wilson set a very good example when he easily won the Senior event. Special praise must also go to M. P. Beard and B. W. Calder who were fourth and tenth respectively. In the Junior event V. Hancock, J. H. Reynolds and M. W. Goode ran very well to finish fourth, fifth and seventh.

Several members of Pitt House displayed their histrionic talent in this year's annual production of the School Play—" Macbeth " by Shakespeare. We hope this augurs well for the Drama section of the Eisteddfod which takes place next term.

Finally we welcome all new members of the House and we hope they will soon enter into the activities of the School and House, especially the Eisteddfod next term. During the past year, the House was in the most miserable position of not gaining a single trophy, though the margin of failure was sometimes very small. Here therefore, a challenge is offered to all members of the House to remedy this situation, and the new boys particularly will have every opportunity of showing their hitherto latent talents and their active co-operation.

J. G. F. PARSONS, L6G.

P. N. CASSIDY, U6A.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES.

ATHLETICS As promised in The Link at the end of the Summer term, the Athletics Club has started and seems to be flourishing. At the beginning of term when we held our first meeting there were about seventy or eighty boys in attendance, although some of these boys have not been able to stand the test of time. We still have a very strong nucleus of about 40 boys.

I think the Athletics Club can quite safely boast to be the only School club or society having seven masters taking an active part.

I think the boys who have been in regular attendance would like me on their behalf to thank, Messrs. R. F. R. Clark, M. A. Ascher, B. E. Coleman, J. A. Kirby, V. C. Matthews, N. J. Spearing and M. L. Wiltshire, who have, so willingly, given each Friday evening to improve and perfect their running, throwing and jumping.

I sincerely hope that we will be able to repay the masters in the athletics season, when they will be able to see the results of their labours.

If this regular attendance is maintained, then I am sure we will be able to win more meetings in which the School is entered.

G. W. C. Wort, U6Sc. Md.

THE AVIATION SOCIETY This new society is at the moment only open to boys in the old building although it is hoped that the society will be open to the whole School. At the first meeting of the society there was a talk given by the vice-president on "The R.A.F. 1930 and 1960". The "How and Why" of Flight was also explained. At the second meeting the Hawker Hunter was discussed. Model aircraft are also a part of the Aviation Society. It is very possible that outings will be arranged to such places as London Airport.

President, Mr. Warwick, Vice-president, R. Nobes, Secretary, K. Faithful.

R. Nobes, L6G, Gc.

THE C.E.W.C., S.W. LONDON GROUP This term an "International Evening" was held at this School on Wednesday, October 23rd. It was well attended by representatives of nine schools in this area.

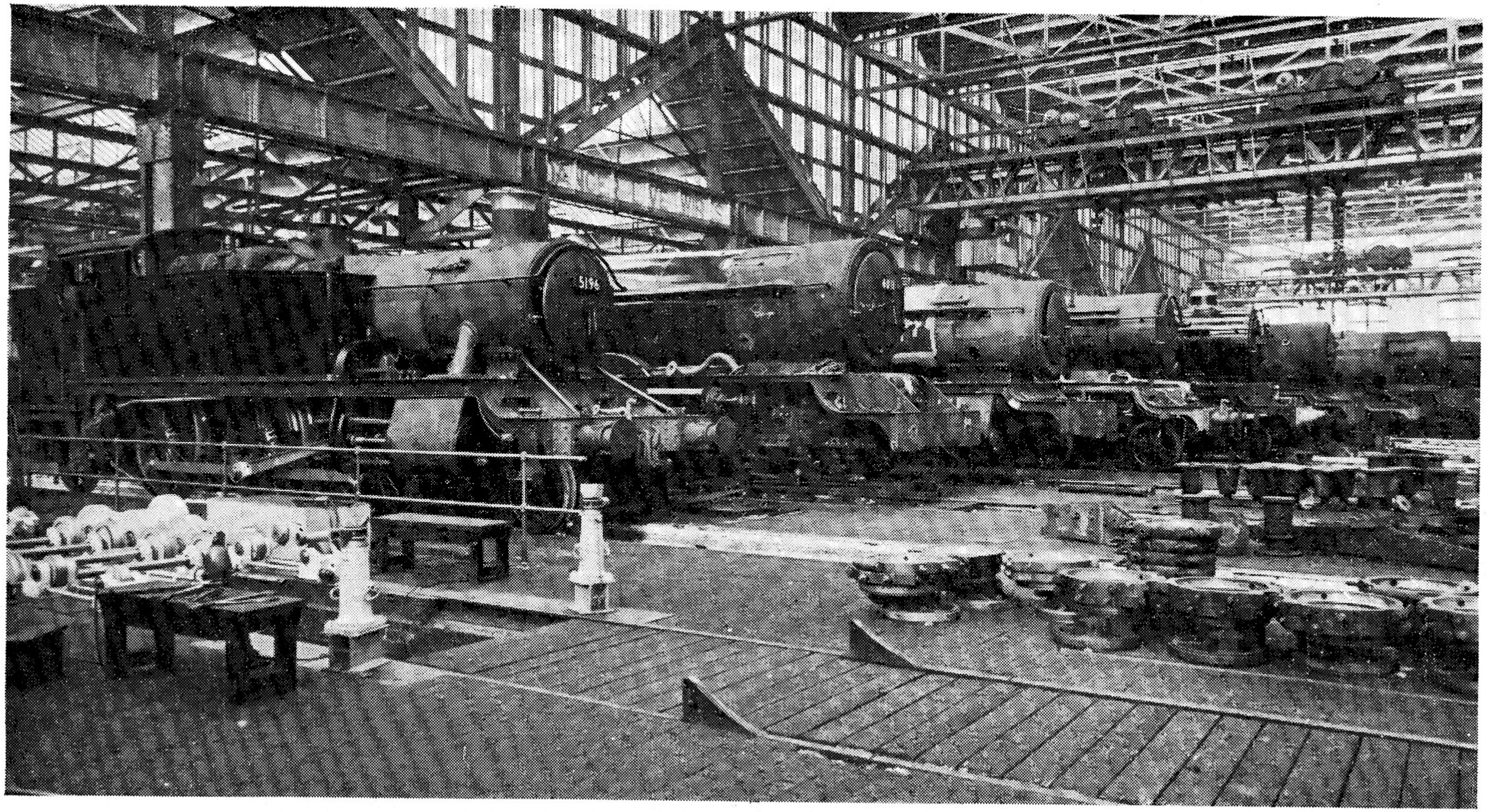
Although a cosmopolitain gathering had been arranged, the only speakers C.E.W.C. Head Quarters were able to provide were West Indians. However, the evening was a great success both in educational and social respects. After two interesting descriptions of Jamaica and Barbados, several members of the audience from foreign countries also very kindly agreed to answer questions, which came fast and furious.

It was very pleasing to see the large number of boys from this School who attended in order to act as hosts to the boys and girls from the other schools. It is hoped that even larger numbers of the fifth and sixth forms will attend future meetings.

P. J. Drain, U6Ec.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY
HOW TRAINS ARE MADE At some time or other, we must have all stood and looked with awe at the giant locomotives standing in one of the main railway stations and perhaps wondered vaguely how they were made and put together.

Members of the Engineering Society were able to see this being done at The British Railways' Workshop at Swindon last July. There they saw the huge wheels, nearly six feet in diameter, being turned on a lathe. Steel was turned off like wood shavings and yet became burning hot by the amount of energy used.



Erecting Shop, Loco. Dept, Swindon.

(By kind permission of British Railways)

Over fifty boys attended the outing, accompanied by Mr. Robson and Mr. Gush, assisted by prefects. The Party reached Swindon from Southfields Station via Paddington. On reaching the works the party was divided into three, each with an official guide who willingly answered any questions.

In the foundry they saw castings being made from molten iron which was being poured like jelly into a mould, except that the moulds were made of sand and the castings were far more elaborate in shape than the average table jelly. Sand moulds may sound strange to the layman but they are made of a special sand which has the power of sticking together. Sand moulds are made in two halves. A top and a bottom, called a cope and a drag.

The testing shop and erecting shops were visited and there, amidst the new, sleek looking loco's stood a full size model of a locomotive made by Stephenson as though to remind the others of the heritage they owed to a great pioneer of the past. This loco' was used for the opening of the line from Paddington a hundred and nineteen years ago.

Then came the boiler shop with the gigantic riveters. Everywhere the noise was tremendous.

Finally the coachbuilding shop was visited. Here the sides of the coaches were seen being pressed out of steel by huge presses, with the apparent ease of folding cardboard.

The visit gave members a good insight into production methods of a large engineering organisation with long established methods.

At Swindon Works, also, is housed the largest lathe in England.

THE CONSTRUCTION AND FAILURE OF BRIDGES

On Monday, 30th September, the theme of the meeting was " Civil Engineering " and two films were shown.

Both films, on loan from The Institution of Civil Engineers, were American. The first, made nearly thirty years ago, showed stages in the construction of the San Francisco Bay Bridge. The film was more for general interest than for instruction. The early sequences particularly, being more dramatic than scientific, showed shots of workmen being carried aloft on girders and working in an assortment of precarious attitudes. It developed a more mechanical bent later, when it followed carefully the tracings, of the " spinning wheel " which was used to " spin " miles of steel wire, back and forth, into the huge steel suspension cables. But diagrams would have been of some use and a little explanation as to the reasons for constructing one section of the bridge on the cantilever principle and another section as a suspension bridge. On the whole, however, the film gave, in the characteristic American fashion, a strong impression of an outstanding engineering achievement, which indeed, it was.

The second film, made in 1941, " The Failure of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge ", was in many ways more remarkable. The bridge was found to develop a peculiar wave motion with the slightest breeze and it was uncanny to see cars going up and down as they proceeded across the bridge. The problem was investigated at a university and the value of model engineering was seen in the scale model which was used to reproduce these peculiar movements in the laboratory. However, before the problem was solved a gale developed and it seemed incredible to see this bridge waving and oscillating in the wind like a length of carpet being shaken on a lawn and then its final destruction two hours later.

OLYMPIA VISIT

The Society paid a visit to the Engineering, Marine, Welding and Nuclear Energy Exhibition at Olympia on the 12th September. One hundred boys from all sections of the School made the journey via Underground without mishap, despite the frenzy induced in some small boys by the sight of a train pulling in to a station!

On arrival, the organisers, F. W. Bridges & Co., showed us the two rooms they had set aside for the boys to have their lunches and the lads were let loose to investigate a mass of machines, processes and finished products.

Among the most popular exhibits was the driving platform and controls of a steam locomotive which particularly interested the smaller boys. Also a demonstration of the flame-cutting of a piece of 3 inch thick mild steel was on show (a 6th Former thoughtfully observed that this process differs from other cutting processes in that no metallic waste is produced as almost all the metal removed is oxidised and comes down as a fine dust). Under-water swimming also was staged here but, we felt, not with a quarter of the verve and skill of Mr. Lewis's display to the Society last year in the School swimming pool. Engines of all kinds were a source of fascination to many, and boys were able to see components that they had been laboriously drawing and sectioning at school but had never before seen in action.

The N.P.L. displayed a most interesting set of comparators (devices for accurate comparison of workpiece with gauge). The first had been rejected by the Laboratory for inaccuracies. The second was the firm's next attempt on the job after re-tooling and various alterations had been made. This also failed to pass the test. The third was the successful version. The lady demonstrator told us that in one case, a firm making this equipment had made five instruments and each one failed to gain a certificate. The firm subsequently gave up trying to make the instrument: the story shows the emphasis on extreme accuracy of the order of millionths of an inch that is insisted upon in certain branches of engineering to-day.

Most boys gained at least a keen interest in practical engineering from this great show. Many wasted their time and sponsors' money collecting leaflets on subjects well above their heads and outside the syllabus. Some, however, learned much. One boy was still in the hall at closing time having the workings of a draughting machine explained to him. He was first observed on the same stand at 5.30 asking questions and getting answers. All praise should go to the demonstrators who answered his questions and those of others like him, with understanding and patience. As the representative of David Brown put it when asked why his firm exhibited each year: "We don't sell much at these exhibitions but we like people to understand what we do and see our machinery in action. Too many people know too little about Engineering in a country that depends on it".

Only one small query was voiced by Mr. Mercer. After studying for sorne time an extremely large machine surrounded by ropes on a stand, he was heard to say, "What really puzzles me is, however did they manage to lift that machine over those ropes".

FENCING *Captain :* K. S. Kreuchen. *Vice-captain :* J. W. Tarkowski.
Secretary : N. E. Bishop.

The Fencing Club has continued to meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at four o'clock. Dinner-time fencing has received encouraging support, and many junior fencers attend. We congratulate Professor Antonino Cipolla on his title of Cavaliera Della Republica Italiana (Cavalier of the order of the Italian Republic). We have his services three days every week, and his instruction is improving our standard of fencing enormously.

The Club started sabre and épee this term. Since the last issue of The Link four matches have been fought. The first was an épee and foil match against Wimbledon F.C. We won both, five bouts to four bouts. Our second match, which was against Brentwood, resulted in a loss for the senior foil team and a win for the junior foil team. C. Green won all three of his bouts. Our third match was against a mixed team from Drayton Manor, and we won twelve bouts to four. K. S. Kreuchen won all four of his bouts. The fourth match was against St. Paul's School. We fenced three foil teams, one sabre team and one épee team. The first foil team was very unlucky to lose, but the standard of fencing was extremely high. The second foil team won, and the third team, lost. As this was only our

second épee match, we were not surprised at loosing. The sabre match was very exciting, and we lost the match in the last bout.

We have future matches with the Staff, The Lycée Français and The London Fencing Club.

N. C. BISHOP, U5, Cb.

THE FISHING CLUB The last season's fishing has brought a reasonable amount of success for Club members including a 1½ lb. Roach caught by Jenkins, 2 lb. Perch by Bessent and a 4½ lb. Tench caught by R. Massey. The International Sea Fishing Festival at Hastings is an event which is usually attended by Mr. Gee and Mr. Makin and this time was no exception. They both attended and had excellent results to show for two days fishing.

This contest is divided into two main parts—the pier section and the boat section. Mr. Makin fished in the pier section while Mr. Gee fished in the boat section with surprisingly good results; on the first day Mr. Gee fished for Conger and caught a fair amount scaling between 7 and 8 lbs. On the second day he fished for whiting and ended up with a bag of 651 lbs. 11¾ ozs. which included 61 lbs. 15¾ ozs. of whiting and 3¾ lbs. of Bull Huss. This bag of whiting, which was the heaviest catch of whiting in a day's fishing, won Mr. Gee the Dreadnought Cup, a silver biscuit casket and a miniature shield. The heaviest whiting weighed 1 lb. 5 ozs. and is a specimen fish.

During the Summer holidays the president went fishing in a small river in Kent and caught trout, rudd, roach and dace.

FIVES *Captain :* G. W. C. Wort. *Hon. Secretary :* D. Ayshford.

I am glad to be able to report that the popularity of fives continues to increase.

The members of this year's completely new team are: G. W. C. Wort, B. C. Johnston, J. T. P. Francis and D. Ayshford, with P. N. Cassidy and I. Thirlwall as reserves.

The first match of the season was played at home against Strand School, when we won rather convincingly by 6 games to 2, and 107 pts. to 67. The second match was away against St. Marylebone Grammar School, when the team were beaten by 7 games to 1, and by 115 pts. to 74. But on adding the results to date we find that we are losing by 2 games, but only by 1 point. These results give the team every confidence for the future.

The Fives Club has been meeting regularly on Thursdays, with a small group of enthusiastic supporters. I should like to take this opportunity of reminding any boys in forms 4 or above that they are welcome to come along to the courts on Thursdays to learn to play this fast and exciting game.

In addition to the Fives Club, a junior club has been started for boys in form three.

At the time of writing neither the Individual or House competitions have been started.

We must congratulate C. N. Newson on winning the Individual Championship last year, he beat R. S. Hore in a very exciting final.

This year, I believe, we can claim that more boys are playing fives than ever before, it is good to see such keenness in this comparitively unknown, but excellent game.

D. AYSHFORD, 6Sc, Cc.
Hon. Secretary.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY—OUTING TO LEITH HILL. We assembled in the booking hall at Wimbledon Station, and observed that the weather was not marvellous! Nevertheless the party of 17 decided to go, so the quiz papers were issued. Then we caught the 9.17 a.m. to Dorking North. During the journey we supplied answers to the quiz papers. Eventually we arrived at Dorking

North at 9.52 a.m. There we caught a 425 bus to Westcott where we found an interesting ironstone quarry. From there we ascended Bury Hill and then up to Leith Hill where we found the Tower shut. We had a break of about 20 minutes to spend over lunch.

We returned to Dorking via some very muddy paths after we had completed a circle to the west of Dorking. Then we left for home after a thoroughly enjoyable but tiring day.

Incidentally the quiz was won by R. D. Clarke and G. R. Davis of Form 2. Each of them will receive a sheet of the Ordnance Survey Map.

HISTORY SOCIETY—(LOWER SCHOOL) A running now of just over a year, perhaps qualifies us for dignified inclusion under Clubs and Societies. Autumn began wih Mr. E. P. Olney, an authority on our locality, addressing a meeting which numbered several of the Staff, and exhibiting from his own collection of lantern slides, many of which must be unique. He told us the School is built on, once, the site of a lake. He showed us Wandsworth High Street—Tibbett's Corner etc.—in less harassed days. He reminded us of not so long ago when toilets along Garratt Lane were actually erected over the edges of the Wandle.

To one of our members, James E. A. House, must go the credit of bringing along Mr. Peter Jackson, writer and illustrator of " See London ", the feature in " The Evening News ". Mr. Jackson had a bag of mystery objects for us to identify. With these very visual aids, he discoursed informally on thrusting swords, miscellaneous revolvers, a Cromwellian helmet complete with beaver and visor, an antique surgical saw, a clip for hoisting a lady's dress out of the mud, a lamp used by travellers on the early railway, and numerous finds in the Thames near where stood old London Bridge. The spell-bound stares of his audience spoke volumes that if only such visitors grew on trees, running a History Society would present no problems.

To date, we have done a tour of the British Museum, ascended the Monument and the tower of Westminster Cathedral, visited the Tate Gallery and the royal chapels in the Abbey. The Summer Link carried an individual article on our pleasant time at the London Mosque. Farther afield, we have made excursions to Verulamium, the Constable Country, and Canterbury. This half-term saw about twenty of us perambulating College quadrangles at Cambridge, in the hands of a guide, and ending our day with Choral Evensong in King's College Chapel. We shall not soon forget the candlelight, the red-and-white robed scholars, and that sheer loveliness of sound which went " lingering—and wandering on . . . " in the great vaulted darkness.

INTER-SIXTH SOCIETY The programme of the Society for this year consists of two meetings to be held during the School term. This term, the first of these meetings took place at Putney High School on October 21st, and was a social evening with gramophone records. Members of the Sixth Forms of Mayfield, Putney High School, Sir Walter St. John's and Wandsworth introduced the records they had selected to play, which assumed a colourful and interesting variety.

At the time of writing the second meeting of this term had been arranged to take place at Wandsworth School, when it was hoped a prominent scientist would address the Society on a popular aspect of modern science.

Other varied meetings arranged for next term include a dance to be held in March at Mayfield, and next February there is to be a half-day Conference on " The Function of the Press ". We hope for a large attendance on all these occasions.

G. W. WILLIS, L6Arts, Gc.
P. T. LIBBY, L6Sc, Md.

LITERARY AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Society is looking forward this term to visit to current plays at the Old Vic and Drury Lane Theatres. A number of parties will be attending performances of "Hamlet", "Measure for Measure", "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "The Tempest" and "Henry VI", between the time of writing and Christmas.

We hope to be able to read or listen to recordings of these plays before visiting the theatres. This will be of interest to all senior boys (viz Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Formers), all of whom are invited to be present at our meetings.

During the coming Spring Term, suggestions and preferences for particular plays to be read will gladly be received.

G. W. WILLIS, L6Arts, Gc.
Secretary.

MODERN LANGUAGE SOCIETY

The multiplicity of activities at the end of the Summer Term forced us to postpone the meeting we had planned until 17th October. Eleven boys and seven members of staff were entertained to tea and Mayfield. Then followed our first Verse Speaking Contest. Competitors had chosen one of the following poems and studied it with Mr. Köhlert or Mr. Reichard:—Le Loup et L'Agneau (La Fontaine), Les Chats (Baudelaire), Mon Rêve familier (Verlaine), Erlkönig (Goethe), Wir sassen am Fischerhause (Heine), Hyazinthen (Storm).

While the judges made their decision, Mr. Köhlert organised a game in German. Then Mr. Lincé announced the results, and distributed certificates.

We were beaten by 42 points to 20, but this was our first attempt in this field. We shall do better next time.

The following took part in the contest: R. F. Brown, D. Crosbie-Hill, P. M. T. Gillingham, R. Müller, R. Newman, P. Rees, A. Reisman-Arzi, G. W. Willis.

A.M.L.

THE RAILWAY CLUB

This term the Club has been meeting fortnightly on Thursdays in Room 34. At the first proper meeting Mr. Bacchus gave a very interesting talk on the history of the Isle of Wight Railways. This story is a very colourful one telling how they began with ten different companies and now have only one long line under British Railways.

At the next meeting P. G. Lewis gave a talk on the Garden Railway (the L.B. and S.W.R.) which he and the writer built in the latter's garden. This was followed by a trip, attended by a small but enthusiastic number of the members, during half-term, to see the layout.

On the Opening Day, the Railway Club was responsible for a highly successful model railway in Room 34. This was constructed under the able direction of P. Leverick.

A full programme is being arranged for next term and all those interested are invited to attend.

P. J. DRAIN, U6Ec.

RUGBY

FIRST XV.

Captain : J. T. Davies *Vice-Captain :* J. D. Carr
Hon. Secretary : R. T. J. Moody

This season, the first fifteen has put up some quite good performances, and may be considered a little unlucky not to have won more than one match.

Since the first game against St. Marylebone, which was lost 53—0, the side has combined much better together and now play more as a team, though we have never yet been able to field a full first fifteen team, owing to Asian 'flu and injuries. The forwards are the strongest part of the team, being very ably led by R. T. J. Moody, and although all the forwards deserve praise, A. J. Thrower must be singled out for special mention. J. D. Carr has played very well at scrum-half and D. Simpson, although a little inexperienced, has on the whole combined very well with him at fly-half. The three-quarters are now playing much better than at the beginning of the season, and the tackling has greatly improved, especially that of G. Wilson and P. Lewis.

Finally we congratulate A. J. Thrower and R. T. J. Moody on being selected to play for Surrey Senior Colts against Kent. This is the first time for many years that the School has been represented in the Surrey team.

RESULTS:—

v.	St. Marylebone (away)	Lost	53—0
v.	Chartesey (away)	Won	55—5
v.	Mitcham (away)	Lost	26—6
v.	William Ellis (home)	Lost	11—6
v.	Bec (home)	Drawn	0—0
v.	Purley (home)	Lost	12—3
v.	St. Olaves (away)	Drawn	3—3

JOHN T. DAVIES, *Captain.*

SECOND XV.

The 2nd XV's mediocre record is due partly to a severe attack of Asian 'Flu but mainly to a lack of training. However, each member of the team has played gallantly and to his full capacity. But, training is essential—especially for the three-quarters who, although they have shown spirit during the game, need the keenness off the field to enable them to turn out for regular practices.

RESULTS:—

v.	St. Marylebone	Lost	0—43
v.	Mitcham	Lost	3—17
v.	William Ellis	Won	29—6
v.	Bec	Lost	3—36
v.	Purley	Lost	8—20
v.	St. Olaves	Won	8—6

HOWARD POTTER, U6Ec, Pb, *Captain.*

COLTS XV.

This year's Colts XV is following closely the success of last year's Colts team although perhaps the standard of play is not, as yet, so high. The team have had only 24 points scored against them but have already amassed 195 points to their credit. The forwards lack the thrust of a co-ordinated attack which ought to be considerable since there are many good individuals, outstanding ones being F. W. Evans, G. Dauber and A. R. Nicholl.

F. J. Butcher, as scrum-half, has not got the ball back as a scrum-half should do, and his transference to the wing will no doubt give him the opportunity really to show his talents—as a very fearless and forceful

runner. In I. Evans (a real Welshman, of course) a true scrum-half seems possible.

All the three-quarters have played well and would be very difficult to defend against if more passing was done. B. A. Eadie has lead the team satisfactorily, but needs much more following and support for his instructions.

The following are to be commended for their efforts in the Surrey Trials: B. A. Eadie, F. W. Evans, B. A. Burge, A. R. Nicholl, F. J. Butcher and G. Dauber. We congratulate B. A. Burge on being picked as reserve for the Surrey Colts XV.

The following have played for the Colts team: B. A. Eadie* (captain), F. W. Evans* (vice-captain), G. Rowe (secretary), A. R. Nicholl*, F. J. Butcher*, G. Dauber*, M. J. Norman, J. Bullingham, J. Brown, D. J. Francis, J. E. Pinnock, R. W. Price, T. M. Harnley*, S. J. Bush, I. Evans.

* Denotes team badge award.

STAMP CLUB Since the Club opened last year, it has been growing from strength to strength. We now have many more members, and a junior section of the Club has been organised in the old building under the leadership of Mr. Warwick.

On November 7th, the School was officially opened, and the Stamp Club ran a successful exhibition with the help of Mr. Lewis, Mr. Warwick, and the members. A section of Mr. Lewis's collection of Cyprus proved interesting, and also part of Mr. Warwick's collection of booklets and registered letters. The members made a splendid display of their albums and collections.

The Stamp Club meets every Friday, after school, in the library classroom, and all boys interested in coming will be cordially welcomed.

We are sorry to lose our previous secretary, Russell, who left last term, and is now working with the G.P.O.

M. J. MASON, L6G, Ga.

OLD BOYS' NOTES It is regretted that we missed publication date with our notes for the last issue, but as most that has occurred of importance of recent times has happened since that date little, perhaps, was lost in the event.

CRICKET SECTION

The formation of an Old Boys' Cricket Team was mentioned in the Spring copy of The Link, and it is pleasing to report that our plans came to fruition and that a most enjoyable "season" of six matches was the result. The bare bones of the playing results which follow give no adequate idea of the pleasure that we derived from fielding the teams and experiencing some really splendid cricket against very worthy opposition:

Played 6; Won 2; Drawn 3; Lost 1.

AIR INDIA INTERNATIONAL. We met this club twice, winning the first encounter by 61 for 0 wickets against their 54; and losing the return match by 82 to their 142 for 5 wickets.

THE SCHOOL. We were extremely glad that it was possible to arrange this fixture although at one time it had appeared that no date was possible to meet us. We batted first and made 120, whereupon, after early expectations of a convincing win, we allowed (?) the School to make a very creditable draw by taking their score to 81 for 8 wickets by the close of play. Coppock and Ginn proved to be extremely stubborn and it was they who thwarted us of victory. Agha's 5 wickets for 47 for the School was also worthy of special mention.

WORCESTER PARK ATHLETIC. This match was played in a perfect setting for a cricket match on their picturesque ground, and if only the weather had behaved as handsomely we would have undoubtedly have emerged

the victors. The Old Boys amassed 130 in their innings and had 7 opposition wickets down for 94 when rain finally put stop to all likelihood of a definite result and the inevitable draw was reached. We were glad of the services in this game of A. A. Agha, the School Captain, who took 5 wickets for 31.

RAYNES PARK RESIDENTS. This proved to be our easiest match for, although the Residents scored 128 when they batted, our opening pair, Hill and Edwell, knocked off the runs without being parted. Hill scored 72 not out and Edwell 47 not out, and so once again we relied greatly on a School player.

WANDGAS. This match will live forever in the minds of those who played and watched it as a golden opportunity for a " turn up for the book " being squandered away. Here again rain caused many interruptions, but such was the prolific scoring that we were poised in a seemingly invunerable position early in the afternoon, and such also were our initial successes with the ball that right until the end it appeared that a win was ours. The Old Boys distinguished themselves by collecting their highest total of the " season " —229 for 8 declared. J. Hill achieved undying fame as the first Old Boy to score a century for the Association and his 104 was made at a cracking rate. Agha again turned out for us and contributed 56 in his own forceful and pleasing manner. When we had 8 Wandgas wickets down for a mere 47 runs it seemed likely that we would inflict a resounding defeat on this distinguished local club. The 9th wicket was allowed to double their score, however, and the final pair came together to play out time and carry the total to 100 for 9. Roy Line (6 for 34) and Agha (3 for 34) toiled mightily to win the day but we had to be content with the draw.

All 21 players who represented us in the matches contributed their full shares to the good cricket we enjoyed and if Line, Hill and Agha are singled out for their splendid individual performances this does no disservice to others without whom these could not have shone. We look forward to another series of matches next season and, although it does not now appear that we shall be able to play on our own ground at Surbiton in 1958, the Old Boys Cricket Section hopes to keep alive until that happy opportunity arises.

SPORTS GROUND

I understand that notes on the up-to-date position of the negotiations for the acquisition, preparation and general running of the ground will be provided elsewhere in this issue, so I will not duplicate any of that " copy " here. Suffice it to say that when I last visited the ground in mid-October it had been levelled, drained and graded, and that vast flocks of birds were gorging themselves gratefully on the seed that had been provided!

FETE

Talk of the ground (which naturally looms large in all our thoughts these days) leads obviously to finances, and although it was held as long ago as July we would wish to take this opportunity of acknowledging publicly the great debt of gratitude which the Memorial Fund owes to all those who were concerned. To the Headmaster who inspired the idea of it, and to the willing help and much hard work which the Parents' Association and the School contributed are due our thanks that a sum of approximately £200 was raised to swell the Fund. Another such venture may, I understand, be held next year; and in the meantime I have to report that the Old Boys are pursuing money-raising schemes during the winter months in order to provide fuel for the insatiable furnace that the sports ground financing will undoubtedly prove to be.

RUGGER

Although it is early in the season to draw inferences, those who follow our fortunes in the national Press will have noted that we are just about

breaking even as regards results at the moment. Any School player who might like to play for the OW's during the Christmas holidays would be warmly welcomed by the Team Secretary, K. A. Norman, 13, Clonmore Street, Southfields, S.W.18. The Easter Tour next year will break new ground and instead of rampaging through the Fen country will turn its attention to the hitherto unspoiled county of Hampshire. Three matches against New Milton, Isle of Wight and Chichester are due to be played and it remains to be seen whether any of our motoring members endeavour to reach the island without the formality of embarking on the ferry.

CLUB NIGHT

Our weekly meetings of a Wednesday evening during term-time continue to provide a variety of sport and games for members, and we are indeed most grateful for the use of the new gymnasium where our badminton adherents are now able to enjoy their sport in hitherto unknown spaciousness and freedom.

All enquiries regarding the activities of the Association should be addressed to the Hon. Secretarv, S. Harrison, 21, Twilley Street, Wandsworth, S.W.18.

D.C.F.

(Mr. Elms would be glad to hear from Old Boys who wish to become regular subscribers to the magazine. Subscription details are printed elsewhere.—EDITOR.)

OLD WANDSWORTHIANS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Captain : D. J. Finch.
Hon. Secretary : A. R. Hammond.
Team Secretary : K. Norman.

In March this year the Old Wandsworthians' Memorial Committee accepted plans submitted by the Old Wandsworthians for the purchase of a field which could be developed into a sportsfield suitable as a memorial to those Old Boys who fell in the 1939/45 war.

The Ground in Woodstock Lane, Chessington, approximately a quarter of a mile off the Kingston-by-Pass, is approximately 11 acres in area and is large enough to allow for 3 rugby pitches and a cricket square in addition to a site for a pavilion.

The purchase of this Ground by the Old Wandsworthians is now almost complete, only the final documents requiring the signatures of the parties concerned. Already the ground has been levelled, drains laid, and grass seed sown over the whole area. Despite the late sowing the grass is already well established. A Wooden pavilion structure has been inspected and will most probably be purchased subject to building permission being received from the local council.

It is almost certain that the ground will be in use for the start of the 1958-59 rugby season and we look forward to entertaining School XV's and later—we hope—to entertaining individual members of these XV's as members of Old Wandsworthian XV's.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Since the last issue of the magazine the School has arranged a fête which took place in July and resulted in a handsome profit of over £200 which was devoted to the Old Wandsworthians' Association project of helping to pay for their sports ground now in the process of being prepared for use.

As has been the custom your Council have given about £60 for items to assist various Societies and the School in general for the coming year and with the increase in the pupils at the School other Societies may spring up and need our assistance which I am sure will be forthcoming.

I am sure that all parents who attended the official opening of the School will remember it for a long time and not the least will be the helpful and efficient way in which the masters all assisted so courtously towards the parents in showing them round the various exhibits which I, personally thought were excellent.

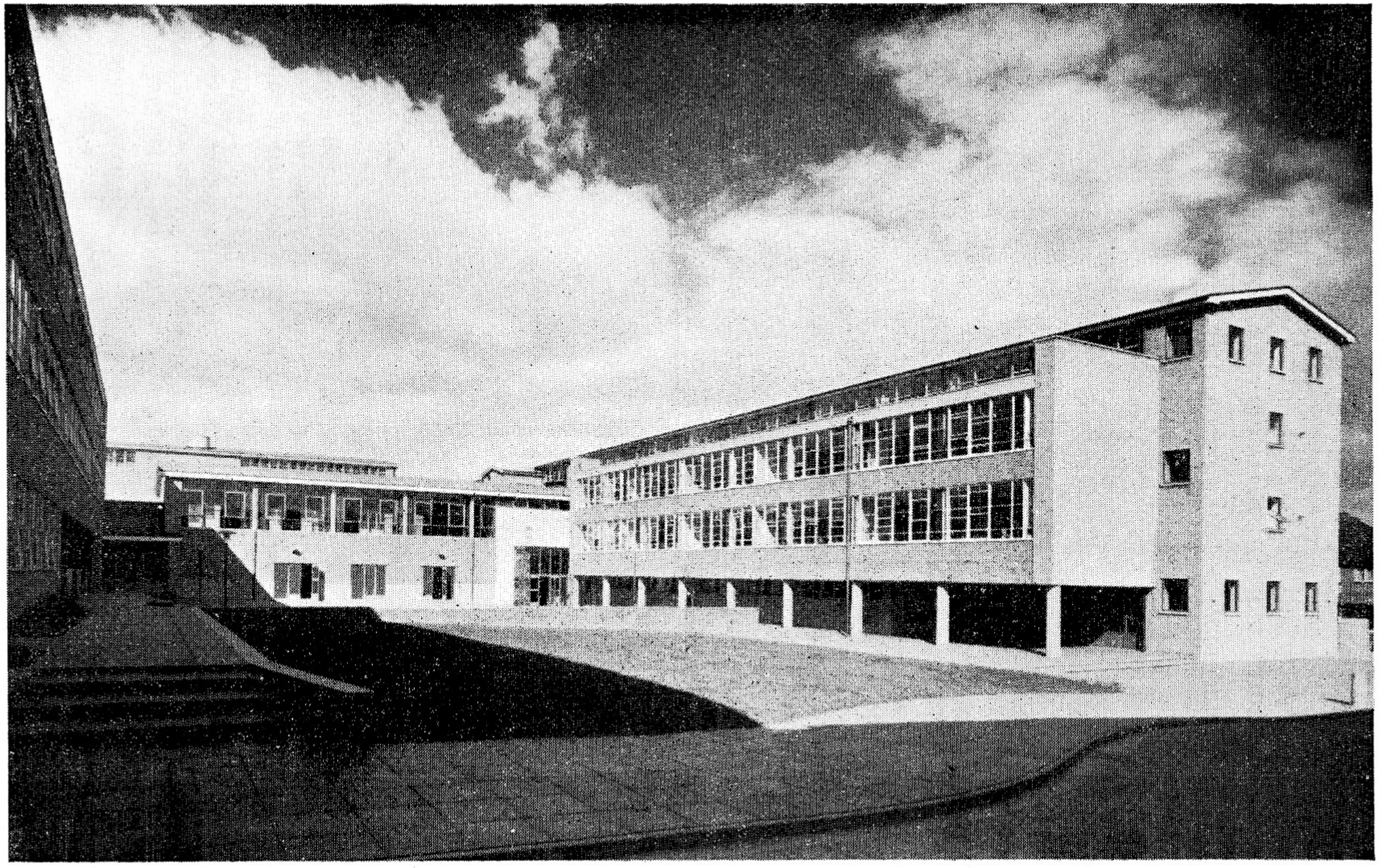
The last letter written in The Link was by Mr. E. G. Green who has now resigned owing to pressure of other work but the Council would not like this loss to go unnoticed as he has been very energetic of their behalf and to my knowledge a very efficient Secretary.

To the parents of younger pupils who may not know of the work of the Council it is asked that they in concert with parents of the older pupils give as much assistance as they can, in every way, to further the ends of the Association.

R. MUNDY, *Hon. Secretary.*

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