

W. Bollan



**THE
OLDBURIAN**

**OLDBURY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
MAGAZINE**

MAY.....1928



THE S.W. VIEW OF THE SCHOOL.

THE OLDBURIAN.

OLDBURY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
MAGAZINE.

MAY, 1928,

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Oldbury School Song.

Words by the Headmaster

MR. J. G. HOWARTH, M.A.

'MID ceaseless toil and the swirling smoke, where the mighty
furnace glows,
With night skies ablaze through the murk and the haze, the
Oldbury School arose ;
Her sons and her daughters both have attained a due meed of
renown,
For some the hero's fame, for some the scholar's crown.

Chorus.

So Hurrah! for the Old Boys of Oldbury,
Who have built up the fame of our School,
For they played the game, we must do the same,
Until all hail the fair name of Oldbury.
Though the strife of life may be swift and keen,
Though we may find hard knocks to rule,
Heed not the praise or blame, carry on and play the game,
For we are boys (girls) of Oldbury School.

When War clouds rose, spread afar o'er the land, then her sons
 gave of their best,
 We honour those who have paid with their lives for safety for
 the rest;
 Her fair daughters all came forth at the call to work in Free-
 dom's name,
 So let us in our turn, carry on and play the game.
 Chorus.

When games go fast and the time passes by, and the goals are
 hard to find,
 And half-back and back bear the shock of attack, and forwards
 gasp for wind,
 It's then gallant hearts are game to the last, no fear their strength
 shall tame,
 So strive on to the end, the glory's in the game.
 Chorus.

In years to come when we're grown stiff and staid, and we wonder
 how we played,
 And we think of the games in the rain and the sun, and the records
 that we made,
 We'll pause for a while and count up the score, with neither fear
 nor shame,
 We'll face our lives and say, we've always played the game.
 Chorus.

EDITORIAL.

ONCE again the OLDBURIAN appears, but this time under conditions totally different from those under which the previous numbers were produced, for this is the first to be issued since we moved into our own home, THE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL, and we take this opportunity of thanking all those kind people who did so much to bring about the realisation of our long-deferred hopes, and gave us the splendid and well-fitted buildings and spacious playing fields, in which we now have our being. Greetings and Salaams to them all, and may we be fully worthy of their efforts.

Now that the School is really at home, we trust that our Magazine will be supported in a manner worthy of a School whose motto is "CRESCO," and we would particularly bring this to the notice of all Old Students, from whom we hope to have news of their doings after their School career is over, for we aim at making the Oldburian a complete history of all events connected with the School, so that each number will be treasured by past and

present pupils and staff. In addition, we appeal to our present pupils to give us of their best in the way of original compositions.

To the Old Students' Association we offer our best thanks for the mighty efforts they have put forth under the splendid leadership of their Chairman, Mr. G. Rose, to provide the School with a beautiful window, in memory of those Old Boys who died on service during the war. We understand that the window is to be placed in position during the next summer holidays, and it will be one of our proudest possessions.

In September, 1926, we had the pleasure of welcoming Miss Joyce Davies, Mr. Newton-Hearn, and Mr. Passmore as members of the Staff, and last September, Mr. B. C. Pearson also joined us. May they be with us for a long time and be happy in their work amongst us!

In July last Mrs. Heatherley resigned her post on the Staff, after giving loyal and enthusiastic service to the School for nearly seven years. We wish her and Mr. Heatherley all success and happiness.

We regret that many of the items in this number have had to be rather severely cut down, in order to bring the Magazine within the necessary limits, but this must not deter contributors from sending in articles for the next number.

Our sincerest congratulations to all those who have helped to make the recent new records in every branch of our School life. It is now the turn of those who are nearing the top of the School to add further improvements, and to set a still higher standard for those who follow.

The Opening of the New Buildings.

IT was a great event in the history of the School and a notable stage in the educational progress of the District when the New Buildings were declared open on Tuesday, 26th October, 1926, by Principal C. Grant Robertson, C.V.O., M.A., LL.D., of Birmingham University.

Mr. G. S. Albright, C.B.E. (Chairman of the Worcestershire Higher Education Sub-Committee) presided, and many men and women prominent in the County and in the District were present. The Assembly Hall was not large enough to accommodate all who came, but as many as possible were squeezed in.

The hymn, "Lord of the Nations," was sung by the School.

The Chairman congratulated the District on its new buildings, briefly reviewing the history of the School and showing how its growth had made the old buildings unsuitable. He said that, just as no one could estimate the value of the Schools of King Edward's Foundation to Birmingham, so it was impossible to

calculate the influence such a School as ours would exercise on the District. He paid tribute to the generosity of the County Council, to the wisdom of the Architect, and to the ability of the Director of Education, and urged the people of Oldbury to make the fullest use of the excellent School which had been provided for them.

Principal Grant Robertson then formally declared the buildings open.

This he followed with a most interesting and inspiring address—we are proud of the first address in our newly-opened buildings! We cannot hope to give any adequate conception of the wit and beauty of the speech, but merely reproduce the main outline of thought.

After congratulating all who were concerned in any way with the provision of the new buildings, he pointed out that the future success of the School depended in large measure on the support of the citizens: he commended the School to them, and urged that they should regard themselves as trustees and so ensure for the School a prosperous and beneficial career.

But buildings, he said, however beautiful and effective, were only environment. The really great results of education could only be obtained if the right kind of teachers were in the School. In his own experience he was grateful for the buildings in which he had been educated, for the many authors of books from whom he had learnt much, but most of all for the four or five really great teachers who, in School and in the University, had done more for him than anything else by the impress of their mind, their character and their ideals. The teacher was all-important—doing national service in training citizens on whom our national future depended.

As a nation we did not realise sufficiently, he thought, the value of education, and fewer people advanced to Higher Education in England than in Scotland, the United States, and Germany.

He pointed out that education was not merely a training to earn bread and butter. The real test of the educational system was not what a boy or girl was doing in a year or two after they left school, but what they would be doing ten or fifteen years later, whether they got in their school that which human training and human experience could equip them with for advancement in their careers. The real tragedy of an educated, or semi-educated, life was at 25 or 30, when they had not the time to go back and learn, and they were being tripped up and impeded because something was omitted between 12 and 18. It was short-sighted policy to take away a boy or girl from school at the first available opportunity: it was worth while making sacrifices, if necessary, to give the extra year or two at school.

In fact, to have to make sacrifices was often advantageous. He thought that there were signs that many of us were prone to fight shy of sacrifice, to expect things to be done for us, to expect easy jobs, soft places, amusing times, and to shirk difficulties. But that was not the way in which we made our Empire, and certainly not the way in which we could maintain it.

In his opinion, the next 15 or 20 years would be critical for us as a nation, and our citizens would have to be prepared to make sacrifices in time, effort, money, and, above all, in pleasure if they were to maintain their position in the world. The schools were the national laboratories of human power; it was in the school that the ideals of service must be fostered; there our citizens must begin the self-sacrificing efforts which would take them through life and enable them to feel that they had got the best out of life. Not only were the school laboratories of human power but also of human character, and not only must they train the mind, but also make their pupils realise that, if they wanted to get the best things out of life, they must first know the best and be able to recognise it when they saw it. It was not always easy in these days to distinguish between the ephemeral and the permanent, between the cheap and the really valuable, between the mediocre and the very high; we must have the eyes that see, and he believed that the real function of a school was to give those eyes of the mind, and thus enable their pupils, while doing their work as good citizens, to devote themselves to some of those higher things which alone made life worth living.

He fully believed that the School which was entering the new buildings would aim at those great ends, and he cordially wished to all concerned with the School, the boys and girls in it and those who were to follow after them, the highest possible measure of prosperity and success.

A vote of thanks to Principal Grant Robertson was proposed by J. W. Willis Bund, Esq., C.B.E. (Chairman of the Worcestershire County Council) seconded by the Right Hon. J. W. Wilson, and enthusiastically carried.

Mr. W. T. Davies, J.P., C.C. (Chairman of the School Governors) proposed, and Mr. F. F. Le Souëf-Simpson seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and this was carried unanimously.

In response to calls for a speech, the Headmaster expressed what great joy it was to all of us to be in our new buildings, and said we meant to try to be worthy of our splendid home and, as the new School Song said, we were going to "play the game."

The School then sang the School Song, which was followed by the National Anthem.

Speech Day, 1926.

THE first Speech Day in our New School was held on 22nd December, 1926, when Mr. A. W. Priestley (Director of Education for Worcestershire) distributed the prizes and gave a most interesting and helpful address. We all felt that it was very fitting that Mr. Priestley, who had been so intimately concerned with the provision of our new buildings, and who has always been such a helpful and sympathetic friend of the School, should thus officiate at our first Speech Day in our new home, and we were very proud indeed to have him with us.

PRIZE LIST.

FORM IIB.—A. Roper (Drawing), M. Caulkin (Needlework), M. Burnett (Needlework), C. Lamb (French), N. Murray (History), D. Jones (English), R. Musgrave (Form, Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry).

FORM IIA.—M. Knott (English), D. Homer (Geography), L. Davies (Mathematics), H. Barlow (Chemistry), J. Vann (Physics, Drawing), O. Smith (Form, History, French).

FORM IIIB.—M. Partridge (English, Needlework), J. Pardoe (Geography, Mathematics, Chemistry), M. Mole (Form).

FORM IIIA.—E. Griffiths (Drawing), A. Smith (Chemistry), E. Sambrooke (Physics), E. Toms (German), P. Woodward (Latin), T. L. Mallard (Geography), B. Adams (History, Botany, Zoology), B. Greenway (Form, English, Mathematics).

FORM IVc.—D. Burnett (Drawing), A. Bill (Geography), L. Amos (Form).

FORM IVB.—C. Screen (Drawing), H. Birch (Zoology), R. Horwood (German), C. Bates (Mathematics), E. Moss (History), R. Stevens (English, French), E. Nock (Physics, Chemistry), A. Webb (Geography, Latin, Botany), A. North (Form).

Form IVA.—R. James (English), H. Cork (Geography), D. Homer (Latin), E. F. Willetts (Physics), D. Rudd (History), E. Adams (Mathematics, Chemistry), E. Bateman (Form, French, German).

FORM IVR.—S. Hale (Commercial Subjects), L. Blundell (Geography), E. Mucklow (French), V. Hickling (Botany, Zoology), R. Everett (English, Drawing), G. F. Holden (History, Physics, Chemistry), G. Lyman (Form, Mathematics).

FORMS V. & VI.—G. Miller (Zoology).

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS.—C. Bluck, C. Hill, L. Johnson, M. Smith, A. Taylor, D. Nelson, H. Mansell, A. Wright, J. U. Lewis, O. Farrow, G. Mundy, K. Ratcliffe, F. Swinburne, L. Morris, M. Grice, K. Parry, G. Cole, J. E. Edwards, A. Terry, N. Homer, H. S. Mobbs, J. White, M. Pyne, R. Curson, W. Hawkins.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION.—K. Brown, E. Chorley, G. Jones, J. L. Jones, G. Nock.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Silver Medal, 100yds. Senior.—H. Jennings.
Silver Medal, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile Senior.—A. E. Smart.
Silver Medal for Best Bowling Average.—G. Stride.
Silver Medal for Best Batting Average.—A. E. Smart.
Bat for Best Individual Performance.—C. Woodward.
Girls' Junior Championship Medal for Athletic Sports.—R. Everett.
Boys' Junior Championship Medal for Athletic Sports.—L. Blundell.
Girls' Senior Championship—Mr. Albright's Cup and Silver Medal.
—H. Mansell.
Boys' Senior Championship—Mr. W. F. Vernon's Cup and Silver Medal.—A. E. Smart.
Mr. Vernon Rowe's Prizes.—(1st) J. Hebbard, (2nd) A. E. Westwood.
Mr. Willis Bund's Prize.—E. Chorley.
House Cup.—School House.

Speech Day, 1927.

THE second Speech Day in the County High School was held on 21st December, 1927, Mr. W. T. Davies, J.P., C.C. (Chairman of the Governors) again presiding. We were very pleased to have with us for the ceremony Viscount Cobham, the Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire, and his interesting and inspiring address will long be remembered. His visit was greatly appreciated by all, and is indeed a very pleasing memory.

PRIZE LIST.

FORM I.—I. Johnson (Form), M. Wakeman (Form).
FORM IIb.—W. Knight (History, Chemistry, Mathematics), C. Bateman (Form, Geography).
FORM IIa.—J. Manton (English), L. Cooper (History), W. Jones (French), J. Hadley (Mathematics), E. Knott (Chemistry), D. Stevens (Physics, Drawing), J. Cope (Form).
FORM IIIc.—R. Keyte (Form).
FORM IIIb.—M. Marshall (English, Physics), J. Griffin (Form).
FORM IIIa.—H. Daniels (Chemistry), J. Vann (Physics), L. Davies (Mathematics), A. Robinson (History), O. Smith (English), M. Everett (Latin), N. Richmond (Geography, Botany, Zoology), H. Barlow (Form, French).
FORM IVc.—M. Richards (Form).

FORM IVB.—E. Macallister (Domestic Science), E. Griffiths (Manual Work), R. Oxborrow (Chemistry), R. Parsons (Physics), F. Bullock (German), W. Stocker (French, Mathematics), H. Humphries (English, History), J. Pardoe (Form, Geography, Drawing).

FORM IVA.—J. Ford (Commercial Subjects), M. Partridge (Domestic Science), F. Raybould (Manual Work), B. Adams (History), G. Frearson (Geography), P. Woodward (French, Latin), K. Butler (Botany, Zoology, Drawing), E. Sambrooke (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry), B. Greenway (Form, English).

FORM IVR.—E. Moss (History), F. Dingley (Geography), A. Webb (English), R. Stevens (French, German), E. Nock (Physics, Chemistry), A. North (Form, Mathematics).

FORMS V. & VI.—School Certificate Examination.—R. Whipp, E. Kingsnorth, A. Bradley, R. Everett, W. Horton, G. Miller, L. Howl, E. Daniels, E. F. Willetts, G. Lyman, E. Key, E. Icke, D. Rudd, D. Cutler, D. Price, A. Wright, J. Parkes, H. Cork, D. E. Adams.

Upper VI.—Higher School Certificate Examination.—E. Smith, E. Johnstone, M. Grigg, J. Hebbard, C. Greenwood, P. Icke.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Prize for Gardening.—S. Wootton.

Silver Medal for Boys' 100yds.—H. Jennings.

Silver Medal for Boys' $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.—L. Blundell.

2nd Place in Breast Stroke Swimming Race at Joint Sports.—P. E. Jones.

Silver Medal for Best Bowling Average.—A. Taylor.

Silver Medal for Best Batting Average.—C. Greenwood.

Bat for Best All-round Play at Cricket and Football.—H. Jennings.

Medal for Girls' Junior Championship in Athletic Sports.—H. Billington.

Medal for Boys' Junior Championship in Athletic Sports.—D. E. Adams.

Mr. Albright's Cup and Silver Medal for Girls' Senior Championship.—H. Mansell.

Mr. Vernon's Cup and Silver Medal for Boys' Senior Championship.—H. Jennings.

Mr. Round's Championship Board for Chess.—A. Bradley.

Mr. Willis Bund's Prize.—C. Greenwood.

Captain's Prize.—J. Hebbard.

Captain's Prize and Old Students' Medal.—P. Icke.

House Cup.—Trinity House.

Public Examinations, 1927.

IN the examinations held by the Joint Board of the Northern Universities, the following members of the Upper Sixth obtained the full Higher School Certificate :—

Clifford W. Greenwood, in Group II. (A).	Edward P. Icke, in Group III.
Mildred A. Grigg, in Group III.	Ethel D. Johnstone, in Group II. (A).
Josephine Hebbard, in Group III.	Edna Smith, in Group II. (A).

In addition to these, Olive Farrow and Peggy Swinburne gained exemption from Matriculation by means of subsidiary subjects.

In the School Certificate Examination the following were successful :—James Parkes, Lily Howl, Ethel Icke, Eileen Key, Gladys Miller, Doris Price, Annie Wright, David Eric Adams, Arthur Bradley, Howard Cork, Donald Cutler, Eric Daniels, Wilfred Horton, George Lyman, Eric Willetts, Rhona Everett, Edna Kingsnorth, Doris Rudd, and Ruby Whipp, and of these James Parkes, Ethel Icke, Eileen Key, Doris Price, Annie Wright, David E. Adams, H. Cork, D. Cutler, and Doris Rudd obtained Matriculation Certificates, and Marks of Distinction were gained by Ethel Icke in English, Doris Price and Annie Wright in Mathematics, George Lyman in Physics, and James Parkes in Chemistry.

Prefects.

1926-27.

Captains.—J. Hebbard. P. Icke.

Girls.—E. Johnstone, O. Farrow, M. Grigg, E. Smith, H. Mansell, P. Swinburne, E. Icke, D. Price, A. Wright.

Boys.—C. Greenwood, H. S. Mobbs, T. Sleeman, W. Hawkins, G. Sleeman, J. V. Lewis, G. Lyman, F. Hollies, F. E. Jones, E. F. Willetts, J. Parkes.

1927-28.

Captains.—M. Grigg. H. S. Mobbs.

Girls.—E. Smith, H. Mansell, E. Icke, D. Price, E. Key, D. Homer, L. Hinds, J. Morris, L. Howl, D. Rudd, E. Pennington, R. Everett, N. Birt, M. Rollason.

Boys.—J. V. Lewis, G. Lyman, F. Hollies, P. E. Jones, E. F. Willetts, C. Screen, L. W. Blundell, D. E. Adams, H. H. Cork, D. Cutler, A. Bradley, R. James, E. Daniels, C. Nock.

Trinity House.

Year, 1926-1927

Year, 1927-1928

Captains - - E. Smith and E. P. Icke	A. E. Key and H. S. Mobbs
Sports Cpts. E. Smith and H. S. Mobbs	D. Hadley and H. S. Mobbs
Secretary - - A. E. Wright	D. G. Homer

THE members of Trinity House are to be congratulated on their excellent work, both at studies and at sports, since we came to our New School in September, 1926. Our record has been one of steady progress, culminating in the winning of the House Cup for the school year 1926-1927. This is indeed a great feat, since the competition has become exceedingly keen during the last few years.

The following are some of the records made by the boys of Trinity House during 1926-27 :—

At football, the House XI. played 6 matches, won 3, lost 2, drew 1, and were second in the championship table with 7 points.

The cricket season was even more successful than the football season. It has been generally admitted that the Trinity XI. was one of the best that ever represented a House. H. S. Mobbs, the Captain of the XI., had the support of such stalwarts as C. W. Greenwood, Captain of the School XI., E. P. Icke, and other members of the School XI's.

Of 3 matches played, the XI. won all 3, the scores of the matches being as follows :—

Trinity 50 for 0 wickets, versus School 15. W. Greenwood did the hat-trick.

Trinity 103 for 7 wickets (declared), versus King's 63.

Trinity 78, versus Queen's 42.

Though the Athletic Sports did not bring us any great successes, many of our junior representatives promise well for future years, and deserve to be congratulated. With juniors so keen, the House will always flourish.

Though not so successful at hockey and cricket, the girls of Trinity House amply redeemed themselves by their triumph in the Inter-House Tennis Championship, in which competition we obtained first place. As this was the first time the School has been able to hold a tennis tournament on its own courts, our success is indeed well worthy of praise.

In the Musical Festival of 1927, Trinity, although not wholly successful, proved itself capable of holding a place. The House Choir gained third place, and in the final result Trinity was placed second.

The members of Trinity, both boys and girls, have obtained excellent results in their work. In the Higher School Certificate Examination, the House gained great success in the persons of Edna Smith, E. P. Icke, and C. W. Greenwood.

In the Joint Board Matriculation Examination, Trinity House came through with flying colours. The successful candidates were as follows :—J. Parkes (distinction in chemistry), Audrey E. Key, Annie E. Wright (distinction in mathematics), H. H. Cork, and D. M. Cutler, each of whom obtained matriculation; E. Daniels, W. J. Horton, and Ruby Whipp, who gained School Leaving Certificates. Hence it may be seen that the excellency of Trinity in work rivals the success of the House in sport.

Many of our seniors have keenly interested themselves in the Scientific, Literary, Dramatic and Debating Society, and the House has been ably represented in both plays given by the Dramatic Society.

1927-1928.

The New Year has opened with Trinity Champion House, and we must work hard to hold our place at the top. In the many activities which have already taken place, Trinity is again well to the fore. We hope all the members of Trinity House will work hard and play hard so that our successes will be even more numerous than before, and so that we shall continue to hold the cup.

A. E. Key.
H. S. Mobbs.

Queen's House.

Year, 1926-1927

Year, 1927-1928

Captains - - M. A. Grigg and P. E. Jones	M. A. Grigg and P. E. Jones
Vice Cpts. - H. Mansell and Bateman	H. Mansell and A. Bradley
Sports Cpts. M. A. Grigg and P. E. Jones	M. A. Grigg and P. E. Jones
Secretary - - G. Sleeman	P. Woodward

1926-27.

QUEEN'S football team was not so good this season as it has been previously. It contained only one member of the 1st XI., P. E. Jones, and three members of the second team. But despite these difficulties, we triumphed in some of our matches, and at the end of the season found ourselves placed second, equal with Trinity, King's being first. Our most notable performance was against the champions, when we drew, one each, King's team consisting of seven of the 1st XI.

The girls' hockey was, however, more fortunate, the girls winning all their matches and being placed first, having six members of the 1st XI., one being the School hockey captain.

The cricket season opened, and Queen's supplied several for the School's first teams, including M. A. Grigg (the School captain), H. Mansell, D. Jones, M. Caulkin, and M. Morris for the girls, and P. Jones (the School vice-captain) and Bateman for the boys. In matches against other Houses, Queen's did very well, the girls winning all their matches and being placed first; and the boys, only losing to Trinity, found themselves placed second, equal with King's, with whom we drew.

During this term tennis matches were arranged between the Houses for the first time, but only on the girls' side. Unfortunately, however, we were beaten by Trinity and School Houses, so we were placed third for the season.

In the Musical Competition, Queen's House lived up to its reputation, and carried off the Cup, gaining more points than the other three Houses put together. This was chiefly due to the great interest and energy of the girl captain—M. A. Grigg.

In both our own sports and the joint sports Queen's did well, the girls of the House won the Relay Race, the record for which they would have broken with a little more effort. H. Mansell won the Senior Girls' Championship, and the House, boys and girls, was placed first on the whole of the sports. Queen's supplied also many of the competitors for the joint sports, and P. E. Jones gained the School's only three points.

1927-28.

The beginning of the football season found Queen's with no better team than the previous year. Our first match, against King's, was lost, but not without a struggle, for King's still had a large majority of the School 1st XI.

In hockey the girls were again successful in winning all their matches, having five of the first XI., one of whom was again the School hockey captain.

On Speech Day it was found that Queen's had again lost the Cup, being runners-up to Trinity. Although we have now lost the Cup two years in succession, we still maintain an advantage over the other Houses, having won the Cup many more times than any other House. Although we lost the Cup, we carried off many more prizes, and A. Bradley, of Queen's, was again presented with the Chess Board, as the School's Chess Champion.

In external examinations it was also found that the percentage of students in Queen's who passed compared very favourably with that of the other Houses.

In the Joint Swimming Sports, Queen's House was well represented, and again supplied the School with its only points, P. E. Jones coming second in the two lengths breast stroke, thus winning five points.

At this year's Musical Festival, Queen's House will attempt to retain the Cup that it so easily won last year, and will also attempt to carry off the House Cup, and gain more points for the School in external sports.

M. Grigg.
P. E. Jones.

King's House.

Year, 1926-1927

Year, 1927-1928

Captains - - E. Johnston and F. Hollies	R. Everett and F. Hollies
Vice Cpts. - G. Miller and G. Lyman	E. Mucklow and G. Lyman
Sports Cpts. R. Everett and F. Hollies	R. Everett and F. Hollies
Secretaries - I. Siviter and W. Hawkins	H. Boneham and E. F. Willetts

1926-27.

DURING the first term the only House rivalry expressed was in the hockey and football matches, and as King's House had more than eleven to choose from in the first and second School football teams, it might be expected that we did not lose a game. Besides this superiority in sports, we also had four of our boys and four of our girls raised to prefecture.

After the Christmas holidays the School produced its first annual play, by means of the reconstructed Dramatic Society. King's House provided a part of the cast, as well as a number of those silent indispensable beings, the scene shifters. At this function, the music—flute and piano—was provided by members of King's.

At the Musical Festival, 1927, on the whole we did extremely well, for, with few exceptions, every member who entered for the different events gained either 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place. Iris Siviter, the well-known contralto, was placed first in the senior girl's solo, and was highly commended by the judges. Her songs were most enjoyable. In the senior pianoforte solo, King's House was well represented by G. Robbins, who came second in the final. Somehow we did not win the Cup, still it is as well to give the other Houses some encouragement! They will have a shock one of these years when we do.

After Easter, training began for Sports Day, always a day of inter-House strife. In the junior events King's House did very

well, thanks to D. E. Adams, who established a new record for the junior boys' hundred yards and high jump, and won the junior Championship Medal. Another record was captured for the House by E. F. Willetts, who ran the quarter mile in $61 \frac{3}{5}$ seconds, and was runner-up for the Boys' Senior Championship. R. Everett was successful in breaking the record for the girls' senior high jump, clearing 4ft. $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. King's also provided some of the representatives for the School at the Birmingham Joint Athletic and Swimming Sports.

This account so far has been mostly about the recreational activities of the House, but it must not be forgotten that the fifth and sixth forms take external examinations, and the results of these add to the glory of the House. Out of nine boys who passed the Matriculation Examination four of these were in King's, and one of these, D. E. Adams, matriculated, and was placed first in the centre, and G. Lyman gained a mark of distinction in Physics, and the other two gained a remarkable number of credits. Two girls of the House passed, and although only one girl belonging to the House entered for the Higher School Certificate, that girl, E. Johnstone, was very successful.

1927-28.

At the beginning of the term inter-House football began immediately, and although we had lost some of our best stalwarts, we managed to beat Queen's House. Unfortunately Nightingale, one of our best players, was barred from playing on account of his broken arm, and all the House expressed regret at his misfortune.

During this term, on November 17th, the Dramatic Society gave its second play, one quite different from the last. "The Rivals" was a great success, and a large percentage of the cast belonged to King's House—Sir Anthony Absolute (E. F. Willetts), Mr. Fag (T. L. Mallard), Coachman (A. E. Robinson), and Lucy (R. Everett).

In the second term the Guides gave a display which the audience thoroughly appreciated. Several dances were executed by members of King's House, namely, the Butterfly Dance (E. MacAlister), Scarf Dance (B. Wallace), Eastern Dance (R. Everett), Russian Dance (R. Everett), Minuet (M. Green), and others. M. Boaler also sang some exquisite songs.

These, then, are the doings of King's House since the new School was opened, and it can be seen that the House has justified its existence both in work and play, and reflects honour on all its members, from Form One up to the Sixth.

E. F. W. and R. M. E.

School House.

Year, 1926-1927

Year, 1927-1928

Captains - - J. Hebbard and J.V. Lewis	E. Pennington and J.V. Lewis
Vice Cpts. - E. Icke and H. Jennings	D. Rudd and L. W. Blundell
Sports Cpts. O. Yarrow and H. Jennings	F. Dingley and L. Davies
Secretary - - L. W. Blundell	B. Roberts

ALTHOUGH the House does not occupy the high position in football and cricket which it did two or three years ago, it has not been inactive since coming up to the new school buildings. The House, unfortunately, lost all its stalwarts almost at the same time, with the result that in the Spring and Summer terms of 1927 every House match was lost, both at football and cricket. No discredit, however, is due to the actual teams, which at the time contained no first XI. men, and only about three second teamers. On the other hand, the young and comparatively inexperienced players deserve praise for the gallant fight they put up against immensely superior forces. Their form shows promise that, in a year or two, they will unite to raise the position of the House in games.

During the Christmas and Spring terms the girls played House matches, in which we were only defeated by Queen's House, we having two first teamers and five second teamers.

During the Summer term the House occupied the unenviable position of bottom in the first Annual Musical Competition. Here, however, the position was not as hopeless as appears at first sight, for though Queen's House led easily, only a matter of twenty points out of several hundreds divided the remaining three Houses. In fact, it is more than probable that the fourth position was occupied through lack of enthusiasm rather than lack of talent. Amy North managed to uphold the House to some extent by being placed first for violin solo (open). We hope for better things this year.

In the sphere of athletics the Old Gold has achieved greater prominence. Jennings, in the Annual Sports, 1927, lowered the School record for 100 yards to 10 1/6 seconds, and won the 220 yards, though not in record time. He also followed Smart, of School House, as Senior Champion. In the long distance races L. W. Blundell won the mile in record time, and the half-mile. He was also just beaten on the tape by Willetts (King's) in the 440 yards, both beating the previous record. Blundell has also won the steeplechase three times in succession, beating his own record each time.

During the Summer term the girls played cricket and tennis matches with other Houses. We were defeated in all the cricket

matches, but in the tennis both the "A" and "B" teams defeated every House team except Trinity House "A" team.

On coming to the new buildings, School House received a new master, Mr. Newton-Hearn, who has proved very valuable to the House in athletics, and is in every way carrying on the good work and enthusiasm of his predecessor, Mr. D. J. Davies, who is now at Swansea.

The House, on the whole, has lately been going through a bad period, but it is confidently believed to be once more on the upgrade, and that, given ordinary luck, it will again occupy the high position that it formerly held.

E. Pennington, } Captains.
J. V. Lewis, }

House Cup Marks, Year ending July, 1927.

Trinity, 2,000.	King's, 1,380.
Queen's, 1,478.	School, 1,154.

Football.

ALTHOUGH severely handicapped early in the season by a succession of unfortunate injuries, the School Eleven is doing extremely well. During the Christmas Term the first XI. played 15 matches, only two of which were lost. Their record up-to-date is as follows:—

Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	For	Goals Agst.
24	17	4	3	102	36

In addition, by defeating their most formidable rivals, Hales-owen, by 3 goals to 2, the School kept intact the season's ground record; the first team has yet to be defeated on the Moat Road ground.

The second Eleven, too, is progressing quite well, although, in January and February, several of their matches had to be cancelled, owing to the incessant bad weather, which converted the home pitch into a swamp. Conditions have now been much improved, however, by a system of drainage, and the pitch is once more usable. At present the second team has played 12 matches, of which 8 have been won, 1 drawn, and 3 lost, and the team has 56 goals to its credit and 29 against. It did well to draw and win in the two matches against Wolverhampton, but had rather a nasty fall at Dudley, where no reply was made to the latter's 11 goals.

Apart from the actual representative teams, the School football is in a thriving condition. Mr. Richards has found an energetic and willing helper in Mr. Pearson, while the convenience of having the School standing in its own playing fields is already beginning to take effect. Through this, only a small number of boys have games at the same time, so that more attention can be paid to individuals. If the juniors and middle schoolboys keep up the enthusiasm which now causes them to practice immediately after School, the team in two or three years' time should be one of the best the School has ever produced.

An event which has not been chronicled above is the defeating of the Girls' First Hockey XI. by 4 goals to 1 by the Boys' First Football XI., but it is a significant fact that the girls have greatly improved since a few seasons ago, when double-figure victories were the usual result.

Team: Mobbs; Jones, Hollies; Adams, E., Goodacre, Willetts; Robinson, Davies, Kelley, Taylor, Oakes. Captain: Jones.
J. V. Lewis (Secretary).

A Wet Pitch and a Soaking Ball.

A wet pitch and a soaking ball,
The raindrops falling fast,
And whistling through the net, I hear
The cold and icy blast;
The cold and icy blast, my boys,
While like a cannon's fire,
The ball flies into goal, and leaves
The goalie in the mire.

"Oh! for a clean and level pitch!"
I hear a fair one cry;
But give to me the grassless bog,
Which never shall be dry;
Which never shall be dry, my boys,
A heavy ball for me!—
The world of quagmires is our home,
And merry men are we.

There's mud upon our players' clothes,
And water in their shoes;
Yet visitors upon our pitch
Are pretty sure to lose;
Are pretty sure to lose, my boys,
For this is our abode—
The muddy sphere our pleasure is,
Our heritage—Moat Road.

J. V. Lewis, Form VIS.

The Song of Oldbury's Team.

A Parody on "The Song of the Western Men."

A good pitch and a trusty band
 Of boys both strong and true!
 H — — — n's team shall understand
 What Oldbury's team can do.
 And have they fixed the hour when
 The ball will 'gin to fly;
 Here's a good strong team of Oldbury's men
 Who do not wish to tie!

Chorus.

A good pitch and a trusty band
 Of boys both strong and true!
 H — — — n's team shall understand
 What Oldbury's team can do.

Out spoke their captain, brave and bold,
 A splendid back was he,
 "Although 'tis said their strength's untold
 We'll beat them ten to three.
 We'll run their half-backs from their stand,
 Their backs will be no stay,
 With all five forwards hand in hand
 We're sure to win the day."

A good pitch, etc.

"And when we've got them guessing, all,
 A pleasant state to view,
 We'll teach 'em how to place the ball,
 They'll ne'er know what to do."
 H — — — n's looking pretty sick,
 H — — — n's in a heap,
 For Oldbury's team has done the trick,
 The record they will keep.

A good pitch, etc.

E. Sambrook, Form VA.

Cricket.

DESPITE the unfavourable condition of the cricket pitch, the 1927 season ended with the team justly proud of their achievements. Among the best of their victories was the defeat of Halesowen and King's Norton, the School scoring over 100 in the latter match.

The season opened with H. Jennings as captain, and C. Greenwood vice-captain. Later, when Jennings left, Greenwood was promoted to the captaincy, and P. E. Jones became vice-captain.

With regard to individual efforts, Jennings and Greenwood carried off the batting honours, while Taylor and Jennings headed the bowling lists. Also, Jennings made the highest score of the season, 46, while P. E. Icke made 22 (not out). P. E. Jones captured 2 wickets for 0 runs against Aston Commercial School. Cricket colours were gained by H. S. Mobbs and A. Taylor.

The two most important matches in the School season are the Parents' match and the one against the Staff. In the former the School was victorious by a few runs, thus wresting the shield from their opponents, who won it the previous year. The Staff match was unfortunately abandoned owing to rain, after the Staff had been dismissed for about 70 runs.

In the matches versus the "Brades" and Accles & Pollock's the School were easily victorious. In the latter game the team were fortunate in having the assistance of an old scholar who had recently left School, and who had made a name for himself in the athletic world—A. E. Smart—who during the match made 55 runs (not out) and captured 9 wickets for 12 runs, and thereby made victory certain.

The cricket season is now again with us, and the team, with one accord, have resolved to maintain their traditions of sportsmanship, and strain every muscle and every nerve to make the season one of which the School will be justly proud and which will remain for many years a record season.

F. Hollies.

The Parents' Cricket Match.

A Parody on "The British Grenadiers."

Some talk of Ranjit Singhi and some of "W.G.,"
Of Jessop and "Plum" Warner whose betters we'll ne'er see,
But of all the world's great cricketers, there's none that can com-
pare
With the veterans of Langley and the others that were there.

These old greybeards, for ages they have not played at all,
Or known the feel of a willow wand or the grip of a hard case ball.
But we young boys do know it and banish all our fears,
With them tott'ring to the wicket with their pains and untold
years.

When ere they are entreated to knock us off our length,
 They gather up their creaking limbs and use their failing strength,
 But, strange to say, the ball does sail over their youngsters' heads,
 So tow, row, row, row, row, row, row, to the rheumy wise old
 heads.

And when the game is finished we then sit down to tea,
 And our fathers tell us what they did in 1883,
 But when one comes to sum them up they're younger than they
 seem,
 So let us give a hearty cheer to that staunch yet staid old team.

But in '26 they beat us by more than 15 runs,
 And were very pleased to think that they had beaten their young
 sons,
 But even then they had to fight to wrest the laurels from us,
 Those staid old sires who never tired were certainly above us.

In '27, however, we beat them in the game,
 With many a trick of warfare and twist of supple frame,
 Our victories now are equal and we hope to win once more
 Against our fathers, whom we know were cricketers of yore.

P. Woodward, Form VA.

Girls' Games.

HOCKEY.

SINCE we have been at the new School there has been a decided improvement in the sports of the School, now that we have the field "on the spot." During the season 1926—27 we had a better hockey team than we have had for a long time. After the continual practice that we were able to have, we learned to play as a team, which resulted in nearly all the matches against other schools being won. Special mention ought to be made of the excellent way in which the defence played together. At the beginning of the present season we were fortunate enough to have all but one member of the team of the previous season. During the Autumn Term, 1927, only four matches were played owing to the bad condition of the field. Two of these were drawn and the other two won. Before the team was broken up the greatest victory since 1919 was achieved, when the School team beat Halesowen Grammar School 1st XI., which is considered the best school team in the Midlands. At the end of the Autumn Term four members of the XI. left, and, owing to the bad condition of the field, we were not able to play, so that the team had not time

to pull itself together again. It must be said, however, that although we have not been fortunate enough to win any of the four matches played this term, the team has tried hard and played well, and must not be disheartened by their bad luck. During this season several Staff—and Guide—matches have been played, which have been very valuable to the team as practices.

HOCKEY TEAM, 1926-7.

M. GRIGG (Cpt.). E. SMITH (Vice-Cpt.).

O. FARROW, D. HADLEY, E. MUCKLOW, H. MANSELL, L. HINDS, R. WHIPP, E. ICKE, J. MORRIS, D. PRICE.

HOCKEY TEAM, AUTUMN TERM, 1927.

M. GRIGG (Cpt.). E. SMITH (Vice-Cpt.).

D. HADLEY, R. EVERETT, L. HOWL, E. PENNINGTON, H. MANSELL, L. HINDS, J. MORRIS, E. ICKE, D. PRICE.

HOCKEY TEAM, SPRING TERM, 1928.

M. GRIGG (Cpt.). E. SMITH (Vice-Cpt.).

R. EVERETT, M. MORRIS, L. HINDS, A. NORTH, E. PENNINGTON, H. MANSELL, J. MORRIS, E. KEY.

Reserves: D. JONES and K. BONEHAM.

CRICKET, 1927.

During the Summer Term three cricket matches were played and all were lost. Considering that all the members of the team but three were juniors, they played fairly well together, and perhaps this year they may be able to play a much keener game.

TENNIS, 1927.

All the girls appreciated the existence of tennis courts near to the School, and although the courts were not in a very good condition, a fair amount of practice was put in. We all hope that we shall soon be able to call tennis a School game, as it used to be a few years ago, when matches were played against other schools.

At the end of term a tennis tournament was held amongst the girls, and E. Smith was champion.

M. Grigg, Cpt. 1926-8.

Swimming.

SEASON 1927.

TOWARDS the end of the Summer Term, 1927, the open-air swimming bath, given by Mr. Albright, a Governor of the School, was finished. Unfortunately, this bath was little used owing to the very bad weather we experienced at that time, although many of our most hardy swimmers took frequent dips.

At the beginning of the Christmas Term, 1927, our swimmers began to prepare themselves for the Joint Swimming Sports. A committee was formed of Mr. Hopkins, P. E. Jones, D. F. Hollies, and L. W. Blundell to select the competitors to take part in the Sports, and many of them were given trials in our own bath. On the 3rd of October, 1927, heats for the six lengths and the dive were held at Woodcock Street Baths. P. E. Jones and F. Hollies took part in the six lengths, but, unfortunately, they did not succeed in reaching the final. In the dive S. G. Hale took part, but again we were unsuccessful.

On the 7th October the "Joint Sports" were held at Woodcock Street Baths. In the first race, the two lengths open, Blundell was our only competitor, but he was unsuccessful against the other schools. The relay races did not end as we would have wished, but P. E. Jones managed to secure second place in the two lengths breast stroke, and thus gained the School the only five points.

This was the first time that the School had entered for the Joint Swimming Sports, in which all the schools in Birmingham compete, but we hope to do better for our second year and carry off many of the trophies, among which, we hope, will be the championship shield.

P. E. Jones.

Our Baths.

A Parody on "D'ye Ken John Peel?"

D'ye ken our baths on a summer's day,
 D'ye ken our baths where the frogs do play,
 D'ye ken our baths with the water so grey,
 With the slime and the sleet in the morning?

Chorus.

For the sound of the splash makes us shiver in bed,
 And the croak of the frogs which we oft times fed,
 For the botanist's cries would awaken the dead
 Or the frogs from their lair in the morning.

Yes, we ken our baths and the "footer pitch" too,
 Frogs and newts by no means a few,
 From a shiver to a sneeze, from a sneeze to the 'flu,
 From the 'flu to a death in the morning.

Then here's to our baths, from three who do know,
 Let's bathe in its waters while there's no snow,
 We'll follow the frogs thro' high and thro' low,
 If we want a bad cold in the morning.

D'ye ken our baths with the water so nice,
They are built to swim in when you break the ice,
But they are used, you know, as Miss Green's paradise,
When they pickle their catch in the morning.

L. Blundell, F. Hollies, P. E. Jones,
Form VIB.

Athletic Sports, 1927.

FAVOURED by fine weather, the Annual Sports on June 8th were quite successful.

The sprints produced some startling running. Jennings won the Senior 100 yds. in 10 1-5 sec., and Adams the Junior 100 yds. in 11 2-5 sec., both new records; while H. Mansell recorded 12 1-5 sec. for the Senior Girls. The 220 yds. races also provided some very fast times. Jennings won the boys' senior event in 24 2-5 sec., while Kelley and Adams "dead-heated" in a very exciting race in the junior event. It was rather remarkable that the time for the junior girls' race, won by M. Kings in 31 1-5 sec., was faster than F. Dingley's 31 3-5 sec. in the senior event.

Blundell, Willetts, and Webb provided some exciting running in the long distance events. In the order given they were the first three home in the Half-mile, the Mile and the Steeplechase. Blundell made two new records, 5 mins. 15 1-5 secs. in the Mile and 10 mins. 52 3-5 secs. in the Steeplechase. Willetts turned the tables on Blundell in the Quarter-mile in the record time of 61 3-5 secs.

The jumping was above the usual standard, and Adams with 4ft. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in the junior boys, H. Mansell and R. Everett with 4ft. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in the senior girls, and B. Turnbull with 3ft. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in the girls under 12, all made fresh records.

As usual, the House relay races provided some interesting contests. School House boys' team ran exceptionally well and won their event in record time, 54 2-5 secs.

The Girls' Senior Cup was won by Hazel Mansell with 12 points, Freda Dingley being second with 8 points; and the Junior Cup was won by Hilda Billington with 7 points, M. Caulkin following closely with 6 points.

Jennings secured the Boys' Senior Cup with 18 points, Blundell and Willetts tying with 13 points each; while Adams won the Boys' Junior Cup with 12 points, Barlow being runner-up with 7 points.

The final House points were: — Queen's 87 $\frac{1}{2}$, School 83 $\frac{1}{2}$, King's 63 $\frac{1}{2}$, Trinity 37 $\frac{1}{2}$.
J. B. R.

THE SONG OF THE
COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL, OLDBURY.

Words by
The Headmaster.

(Copyright)

Music by
T. L. Davies, M.A., B.Sc.

Bold rhythm: with movement, but not too fast.

mf

rit *rit*

Chorus

f

Rall

f *allegro*

ave

The musical score consists of eight systems of staves. Each system contains a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The score begins with a tempo instruction: "Bold rhythm: with movement, but not too fast." The piano part starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The score includes several dynamic markings: *rit* (ritardando) in the sixth system, *f* (forte) in the seventh system, *Rall* (rallentando) in the eighth system, and *f* *allegro* at the end. The word "Chorus" is written above the vocal line in the seventh system. The piece concludes with the word "ave" written below the piano line.

cresc. *mf* *ff* *mf*

cresc. *ff* *Rit.*

Ped * *Ped* * *Ped*

School Records in Athletic Sports.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL.

Under 15.	Girls.	A. Nash.	40yds.	1925.
	Boys.	A. E. Smart.	71yds. 1ft. 6in.	1924.
Open.	Girls.	E. Fatterson.	50yds. 1ft. 1in.	1924.
	Boys.	J. H. A. Hawkins.	95yds.	1921.

100 YARDS.

Under 12.	Girls.	H. Mansell.	13 1/5secs.	1921.
	Boys.	C. H. Greenwood.	12 2/5secs.	1926.
Under 15.	Girls.	M. Bowen.	12 2/5secs.	1921.
	Boys.	D. E. Adams.	11 2/5secs.	1927.
Open.	Girls.	H. Mansell.	12secs.	1926.
	Boys.	H. Jennings.	10 1/5secs.	1927.

220 YARDS.

Under 15.	Girls.	R. Lacy.	30 2/5secs.	1921.
	Boys.	A. Mason.	27 2/5secs.	1921.
Open.	Girls.	D. Humphries.	29secs.	1921.
	Boys.	J. H. A. Hawkins.	24secs.	1921.

HIGH JUMP.

Under 12.	Girls.	B. Turnbull.	3ft. 2 3/4ins.	1927.
Under 15.	Girls.	R. Everett.	4ft.	1926.
	Boys.	D. E. Adams.	4ft. 4 3/4ins.	1927.
Open.	Girls.	{ R. Everett. } { H. Hansell. }	4ft. 2 1/2in.	1927.
	Boys.	J. H. A. Hawkins.	5ft.	1921.
		S. J. Hotchkiss.	5ft.	1925.

QUARTER MILE.

Under 15.	Boys.	A. Mason.	69 2/5secs.	1921.
Open.	Boys.	E. F. Willetts.	61 3/5secs.	1927.

HALF MILE.

Under 15.	Boys.	A. Mason.	2min. 36secs.	1921.
Open.	Boys.	W. Lindsay.	2min. 29 3/5secs.	1922.

ONE MILE.

Open.	Boys.	L. Blundell.	5min. 15 1/5secs.	1927.
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LONG JUMP.

Under 15.	Girls.	L. Howl.	13ft. 2 1/2ins.	1926.
	Boys.	A. E. Smart.	16ft. 6in.	1924.
Open.	Girls.	D. Pennington.	14ft. 8ins.	1923.
	Boys.	W. Hunt.	19ft.	1924.

RELAY RACE, 440 YARDS.

	Girls.	Queen's House.	66 1/5secs.	1926.
	Boys.	School House.	54 2/5secs.	1927.

STEEPLECHASE.

Open.	Boys.	L. Blundell.	10min. 52 3/5secs.	1927.
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Girl Guides.

WHEN the 1st Oldbury County High School Girl Guides met for the first time in the new School there were many new recruits eager to join the Company, which was considerably lessened owing to several of the members having left School the previous term. These recruits were very welcome and were soon taught the Guide Laws, the threefold promise, the correct salutes, and four simple knots, so that in a few weeks' time they were ready to be enrolled. Miss Wight, Captain of the 1st Penn Fields Company, Wolverhampton, came for the ceremony.

During the earlier part of 1926 the Guides had competed for a Shield, which was given to the Company in Worcestershire who gained most marks in examinations of first-aid, Morse signalling, folk dancing, resourcefulness, knot-tying, singing, drill, and neatness. This was the first time the Guides had competed, and therefore the result was most satisfactory, for Oldbury was placed second, with only $1\frac{1}{2}$ marks less than the first.

The Company was determined to win the Shield the next time, so they commenced work at once. Log Books had to be kept by each patrol, the Poppy, Daffodil, Red Rose, and Scarlet Pimpernel, and the recruits had to be instructed in various subjects, such as Morse code, company drill, ambulance work, etc.

Also those Guides who had secured their second-class badges began to study for various proficiency badges. Several entered for and obtained gym. badges, musicians' badges, athletes' badges, and artists' badges, while later on those Guides who had been working for the ambulance (one of the most difficult badges of all) were examined and passed by Dr. Broughton, who gave a prize for the girl gaining most marks. The winner was E. Pennington, who received a beautiful copy of "Puck of Pook's Hill."

After the Christmas holidays everyone began to think of camp, and at last it was decided that the Company, together with the Wolverhampton Guides, should go down to South Devon for camp in the summer.

Miss Tweedie, the captain, and Miss Davies, lieutenant, went down to view a suitable camping place during the Easter holidays, and were successful in securing a most picturesque field overlooking the sea, in Stoke Fleming, a small village three miles from Dartmouth.

So, in July the Guides travelled by night train down to South Devon, with their many bundles and haversacks. Though the journey was none too comfortable, and the water was turned off in the morning so that we could not have a wash or drink; though it rained on our way to the farm, and while we were wearily pitch-

ing our tents, yet the happy days of sunshine to follow more than recompensed this unfortunate beginning. Of all the four camps, this camp was by far the best, with its lovely bathing and South Devon scenery. While at Stoke Fleming we gave, by the request of the village inhabitants, a display in the village hall, which was quite a success. Afterwards there was a dance, which we all enjoyed very much. It was with sad hearts that we packed our belongings and took down the tents. We did not relish the thoughts of returning to Oldbury, yet, after a superb ten days, this was what we were forced to do.

In November, Miss Beaumont, of Cambridge, came to examine the Company in connection with the Shield which was nearly won by us the previous year. It was not a long examination, but, when she had gone, we all gave ourselves up as lost, for we thought that we had done very badly.

Judge the surprise of the Company when, in December, news came that Oldbury had been placed first and had won the much-coveted Shield!

Next term the Guides began to work for a display to be given in February. It consisted mainly of dancing, with two short plays and a few songs. There were a Butterfly Dance, a Russian Dance, a Minuet, a Doll Dance with toy soldiers, an Eastern Dance, a Scarf Dance, and a Greek Dance. One of the plays was a scene from "Pride and Prejudice," while the other was entitled "X=O," or a "Night of the Trojan War." The display was a great success, and realised in money £17, which will help the Company funds considerably. The Guides repeated the performance in Wolverhampton Theatre Royal, in aid of the Welfare Centre, and in Oldbury in aid of the Parish Church Bazaar Fund.

R. Everett.

The Girl Guides Display.

A Parody on "I Remember, I Remember."

I remember, I remember
 The hall at Langley School,
 Where Girl Guides, dressed in all their best,
 Drew crowds that packed it full;
 And everyone did hold their breath,
 As back the curtain slid,
 A gust of admiration rose,
 Surprise could not be hid.

I remember, I remember
The Russians, fierce and bold,
A slave girl, too, a doll in blue,
A child with voice of gold;
And all the Girl Guides sang so sweet,
And harmonised so well,
And did their drill so very neat,
Well practised—all could tell.

I remember, I remember
The Grecian gods so white,
Their legs shone out like marble,
When they stood in the light;
A sketch was given so short and sweet,
Called "Pride and Prejudice,"
And when the curtain fell, they all
Did praise Madam and Miss.

I remember, I remember
A graceful minuet,
In grey and blue I danced there too,
And did my bit that day;
And then there was 'midst great applause,
A Trojan-Grecian play,
The curtain fell, the crowd breathed deep,
Happy they went away.

E. Macallister, Form IVR.

Cadet Corps.

THE Cadet Corps of the School has improved both in efficiency and numbers since the scholars moved into the new School buildings in Moat Road. In 1926 the number of cadets in the corps was about 20, while in 1927 the numbers even dwindled down to 13; but during the Easter Term of this year the numbers went up to about 40, a large proportion of these being new boys who came at the beginning of the School year.

The whole corps at present is busy training for the tour of the French and Belgium battlefields, with the seaport of Dunkirk as the base, which is to be made at the beginning of the summer holidays.

During the past years the School has sent a number of cadets to tour the various battlefields abroad, and the tour in 1926, the same year that the new School was opened, proved to be an exceptionally interesting one. The cadets, who came from all parts

of the country, crossed from Dover to Calais, and from thence inland to the quaint little town of Cambrai, which was used as the base. From Cambrai, journeys were made to various places of interest, including Peronne, Arras, and Le Cateau, Vimy Ridge being of special interest owing to the numberless relics of the war still to be found there. After ten days the cadets returned to Dover via Boulogne. Although the return Channel crossing was rather rough, all the cadets agreed that they had had a fine holiday, and all were sorry to come home again.

Last year, as there was no tour abroad, the cadets went into camp during Whit week under canvas at Stakenbridge, near Hagley, together with about 70 of the Dudley Grammar School Cadets. The site of the camp was admirably situated on a part of the Earl of Dudley's private estate, and had it not been that, except for two days, the weather was exceptionally bad, all the cadets would have had a thoroughly good time. As it was, the splendid training of life in the open-air, with all its advantages and disadvantages, was beneficial to all.

At the beginning of the Summer Term, the cadets took part in a Field Day, which took the form of a mimic battle on Clent Hills. All agreed that after a hard day's tramping, with frequent conflicts with opposing forces, they had had a very exciting and enjoyable time. The whole programme for the day was ably arranged by our two officers, Captain Knight-Coutts and Lieutenant Hopkins.

Towards the end of the same term, Lord Cobham, the Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire, inspected the Worcestershire cadets in the grounds of Hagley Hall. The weather conditions were ideal, and at the conclusion of the display Lord Cobham expressed his satisfaction at the smartness and efficiency of those on parade.

In order to improve the aiming of the cadets while at firing practice, there is now belonging to the corps a special rifle or "spotlighter," one of the most recent inventions for correcting the aim, wherever it is at fault. The majority of the cadets, too, study Morse code, and Captain Knight-Coutts gives frequent lessons to all interested in signalling, while Lieutenant Hopkins is supervising the drill of those cadets who are not at signalling practice.

Owing to the present number of the cadets the following have been recently made non-commissioned officers:—

Q.M.S. : L. W. Blundell.

Corporals: S. Hale, A. Bill, W. Greenwood.

Lance-Corporals: G. Sadler, E. N. Hale, H. Jones, E. Jackson, R. Oxborrow.

L. W. Blundell.

Literary, Dramatic, Debating and Scientific Society.

Session 1926—27.

THE Literary, Dramatic, Debating and Scientific Society began with a committee meeting, held on 16th November, 1926, the committee being composed of one boy and one girl representative from each form in the Senior School. From this committee the following officers were elected :—

<i>Chairman</i> , P. Icke.	<i>Secretary</i> , G. Lyman.
<i>Vice-Chairman</i> , M. Grigg.	<i>Treasurer</i> , I. Siviter.

The Headmaster, Mr. J. G. Howarth, M.A., was asked to be President, and the following members of the Staff were elected Vice-Presidents :—

Miss G. Jones, M.A.	Mr. R. W. Thomason, M.Sc., Ph.D.
Mrs. Heatherley, B.A.	Mr. R. D. Hopkins, B.Sc.
Miss J. Davies.	Mr. R. A. F. Newton-Hearn, B.A.

The following sub-committees were elected :—

Dramatic : R. Everett, L. Hinds, P. E. Jones, P. Woodward.
Scientific : M. Grigg, I. Siviter, P. Icke, J. Parkes.

After the officers had been elected and the rules been drawn up and passed, the general plans for the running of the Society were made, and these may be judged from the following brief account of the meetings held :—

November 23rd.—The Dramatic Section began the season with a reading of "Hyacinth Halvey," an amusing play of Irish village life, by Lady Gregory, which was very well acted. The cast was :

<i>Hyacinth Halvey</i> , P. Woodward.	<i>Telegraph Boy</i> , E. F. Willetts.
<i>Butcher</i> , J. V. Lewis.	<i>Postmistress</i> , A. E. Key.
<i>Sergeant Carden</i> , H. S. Mobbs.	<i>Housekeeper</i> , I. Siviter.

For this play, as for all the other readings which follow, no scenery was used, the "props" consisted of articles borrowed from the Staff rooms, etc., and the persons taking part provided their own costumes.

Before each of the play readings the Chairman gave us a few notes on the play which was to be read, the author and the conditions under which it was written. These notes were very interesting and helped us to appreciate the play.

November 30th.—A paper on "The Conquest of the Air" was read by W. Hawkins. This was a subject in which everyone was interested, and all thoroughly enjoyed the paper. Hawkins gave us the whole history of aviation, from the early efforts of the Monk and fire balloons to the present day, with the regular passenger services.

This first paper given by a member of the Society was an excellent beginning.

December 7th.—“ Campbell of Kilmhor,” a play about the Jacobite Rebellion of '45, by J. A. Ferguson, was read.

All the cast acted extremely well, and the atmosphere of deep feeling, great tragedy, and breathless suspense was very effectively produced.

CAST—

<i>Mary Stewart</i> , D. Homer.	<i>Campbell of Kilmhor</i> , P. Icke.
<i>Moray Cameron</i> , E. Icke.	<i>Captain Sandeman</i> , E. Daniels.
<i>Dugald Stewart</i> , E. Bateman.	<i>Mackenzie</i> , C. Greenwood.
<i>Soldiers</i> , F. Hollies, T. Sleeman, C. Webb.	

The chair at this meeting was taken by M. Grigg, as the Chairman was taking part in the play.

December 14th.—The first debate of the new Society took place, the motion before the meeting being “ That hunting should be abolished.” The motion was passed after some keen debating between the opposing sides.

January 18th, 1927.—“ The Boy Comes Home,” a comedy by A. A. Milne, was read. The quiet, subtle humour was well brought out by the cast, who interpreted the play very well indeed.

CAST—

<i>James</i> , R. James.	<i>Mrs. Hawkins</i> , K. Butler.
<i>Uncle Henry</i> , W. Hawkins.	<i>Aunt Emily</i> , M. Grigg.
<i>Mary</i> , N. Birt.	

January 25th.—A debate was held on a subject which was the cause of much controversy at the time—“ That Oldbury should be Incorporated with Smethwick.”

The speakers were: For the affirmative, B. Miller and P. Woodward, and for the negative, R. Everett and C. Greenwood.

The speakers presented their ideas clearly and spoke to the point. When the debate was thrown open many good speeches were delivered, and, although the motion was lost by 59 votes to 19, the debate was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

February 1st.—A dramatic reading of “ The Grand Cham's Diamond,” by Allan Monkhouse, was greatly appreciated. The acting throughout was good.

CAST—

<i>Mrs. Perkins</i> , O. Farrow.	<i>Mr. Perkins</i> , C. Nock.
<i>Emily Perkins</i> , E. Smith.	<i>Albert Watkins</i> , M. Mole.
<i>The Man in Black</i> , S. J. Hale.	

February 8th.—The second paper of the season, on “ Steam and Its Uses,” was read by J. V. Lewis. This again proved to be a well-chosen subject, and the speaker, without introducing technicalities, gave us a very interesting account of the advances made in steam engines, etc.

On February 9th an important committee meeting was held, when it was decided to buy a curtain for the stage at a cost of about £20.

February 15th.—The Juniors were admitted to this meeting, at which two short plays were read, "The Maker of Dreams," a phantasy by Olivant Down, and "Followers," a Cranford sketch by Harold Brighthouse.

"The Maker of Dreams."
Pierrot, O. Farrow.
Pierrette, R. Everett.
Manufacturer, B. Miller.

"Followers."
Lucinda Barnes, L. Hinds.
Helen Masters, F. Breakwell.
Susan Crowther, E. Rudd.
Colonel Redfern, T. Mallard.

During the next week it was necessary to elect a new treasurer owing to I. Siviter leaving school, and M. Grigg was elected to this office.

February 22nd.—At this meeting two plays were read, "Thread of Scarlet," a tragedy by J. J. Bell, by members of Form VA, and Lord Dunsany's tragedy, "A Night at an Inn," by members of Form IVA.

The atmosphere of tragedy was by no means produced in the latter play, but it was none the less (or, perhaps, all the more) enjoyed by the audience!

February 29th.—A paper was read by J. Parkes on "Ship-building." This paper was very interesting, and at the end, when the audience were at liberty to ask questions, many interesting points were raised.

March 8th.—No meeting was held owing to preparations for the performance of "The Farmer's Wife," which was to be given on Saturday, March 12th. Juniors were admitted to the dress rehearsal of this play on Thursday, March 10th. An account of the play will be found elsewhere.

On Friday, 18th March, the cast of "The Farmer's Wife," the scene shifters, and all who had helped in any way—about 70 in all—spent a most enjoyable evening at a party given by Miss Jones.

It was decided to present the School with a framed photograph of the cast of "The Farmer's Wife," and the presentation was made by P. E. Icke to Mr. Howarth, who received it on behalf of the School.

The session 1926-27 was a most successful and encouraging one, and the great enthusiasm displayed throughout, and the high standard attained, gave us all great hope for the future.

Session 1927—28.

A general meeting was held on 27th September, at which the committee and officers were elected for the season.

VIA. M. Grigg, H. S. Mobbs.	VB. E. Moss, C. Screen.
VIB. L. Hinds, F. Hollies.	IVR. K. Boneham, H. Humphries.
VA. B. Adams, P. Woodward.	IVA. D. Homer, L. Davies.

OFFICERS.

Chairman, H. S. Mobbs.
Vice-Chairman, M. Grigg.

Secretary, G. Lyman.
Treasurer, P. Woodward.

DRAMATIC SUB-COMMITTEE.

L. Hinds, B. Adams, P. Woodward, L. Davies.

SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE.

E. Moss, K. Boneham, F. Hollies, H. Humphries.

The general plans for the session were to be similar to those of the previous session.

On Friday, 30th September, a party visited the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, to see "Mary Rose," by J. M. Barrie, in which Fay Compton took the leading part, and all thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

October 4th.—The President, Mr. J. G. Howarth, M.A., gave his Presidential Address, in which he gave us some very helpful advice for the future running of the Society, illustrated by incidents from his personal experience of such societies.

October 11th.—Members went to see "Monsieur Beaucaire" at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, and spent a most enjoyable evening.

October 18th.—The play, "The Monkey's Paw," by W. W. Jacobs, was thoroughly appreciated by an interested audience.

CAST—

Mr. White, H. S. Mobbs.
Mrs. White, E. Key.

Herbert, P. Woodward.
Mr. Sampson, E. F. Willetts.
Sergeant-Major Morris, H. G. Barlow.

October 25th.—The first debate of the season was held, the subject under discussion being "That the country gives too much time to sport." All present had an excellent time, many heated discussions taking place.

Speakers for the Affirmative, M. Grigg, H. S. Mobbs.
Speakers for the Negative, D. Price, F. Hollies.

The House decided that the country does not spend too much time on sport.

November 1st.—The play, "Between the Soup and the Savoury," by Gertrude Jennings, was read, the various parts being very ably taken by K. Butler, D. Homer, and R. Everett.

November 8th.—A paper on "Our Messmates," was read by M. Grigg. What these actually were was kept a secret until the meeting, when it was revealed that they were flies, etc. The paper was very interesting, and many of us learned a great deal about flies and their habits.

November 15th.—The meeting took the form of the dress rehearsal of "The Rivals," which was to be performed publicly

on November 17th and 19th. Members of the Junior School were admitted to the rehearsal at a charge of 6d. each.

November 22nd.—No meeting was held owing to pressure of work connected with "The Rivals," but on 25th November all connected with "The Rivals" in any way, about 70 all told, thoroughly enjoyed a party given by Miss Jones.

November 29th.—A paper on "Our Heavenly Neighbours" was read by H. H. Cork. This very able paper showed that much time had been spent in preparation, and the speaker was well rewarded by the interest which was shown in it. After the reading many interesting points were raised by members, and all were clearly answered by the speaker.

During the next week a general committee meeting was held, when the balance sheet of "The Rivals" was read. With part of the proceeds it was decided to purchase a piano for the general use of the School at parties, etc., at a cost of about £50. The committee chosen to deal with this was Miss Jones, Mr. Hopkins, G. Lyman.

December 6th.—Mr. R. S. Pearce, introduced by Mr. Hopkins, very kindly gave a lecture on his motor tour across Europe. This appealed very much to the members and the art-room was packed. The lecture was illustrated by photographs taken by Mr. Pearce and his companion during the journey.

No more meetings were held this term owing to the terminal examinations.

January 24th, 1928.—E. F. Willetts read a very interesting paper on "The Tower of London." The paper was illustrated by an excellent selection of lantern slides kindly lent by the Birmingham Reference Library.

January 31st.—In the dramatic reading of "The Dear Departed," by S. Houghton, which was given at this meeting, the clever combination of humour and pathos was ably brought out.

CAST—

Mr. Jordan, B. Roberts.

Mrs. Jordan, F. Carr.

Mr. Slater, L. Davies.

Mrs. Slater, L. Pickup.

Victoria Slater, E. Macallister.

Abel Merryweather, E. Sambrooke.

February 6th.—At this meeting Form IVA. read three scenes from G. B. Shaw's "St. Joan." The Juniors were admitted to this meeting, which was a great success, much praise being due to those who took part.

February 13th.—H. Mansell gave a most interesting account of one of the world's greatest musicians, Beethoven. The paper was illustrated by means of gramophone records, which were much appreciated by the audience.

February 20th.—Half-term holiday.

February 27th.—No general meeting was held, many members being busy with preparations for the repeat performance of "The Rivals."

This took place on Saturday, 3rd March. The cast was the same as for the previous performances, and all acted up to the usual high standard. Music in the interval was provided by L. G. Towle (piano) and G. Lyman (flute). This performance raised £12 for the Local Welfare Funds.

March 6th.—A very keen debate was held, the motion being "That the Prefect System should be abolished." A few really excellent speeches were delivered, and many members lost their usual shyness in their enthusiasm. After much keen debating, by kind permission of the meeting, the Prefect System was allowed to continue!

March 13th.—A party visited the Prince of Wales Theatre, Birmingham, to see a performance of Edgar Wallace's play, "The Terror." A very exciting evening was spent, and everybody thoroughly enjoyed this "thriller."

March 20th.—Each of the four Houses read a scene, or scenes, from a play of Shakespeare.

School House: Two scenes from "Julius Cæsar."

Queen's House: Scene from "The Merchant of Venice."

King's House: Scene from "The Merchant of Venice."

Trinity House: Scene from "Macbeth" (in modern dress!).

The acting was well done, and this meeting was a very satisfactory ending to the season's work, the only other gathering of the Society being a very enjoyable social on 27th March, when practically every member was present.

The season has been most successful from all points of view, and especially from a financial standpoint, the committee having about £10 in hand after spending £52 10s. on a piano and acquiring much stage property.

The average attendance at meetings during the two seasons has been about 80, which is very satisfactory.

Great praise is due to the committee for the way in which they have carried out their work, and they in turn are very grateful for the help which they have received from the President and from the Vice-presidents.

G. Lyman, Secretary.

The Two School Plays.

THE first school play to be produced was "The Farmer's Wife." Farmer Sweetland, his daughters and their lovers, Araminta, Mary Hearn, Miss Thirza Tapper, of the villa residence, the inimitable Churdles Ash, Mrs. Louisa Windeatt, Valient Dunnybrig, old Henry Coker, the Reverend Septimus Tudor, Mrs. Smerdon and



CAST OF "THE RIVALS."

her children, the doctor and his wife, Susan Maine, even the glee-men, all played their parts so convincingly that they are still very happy memories.

The second venture was "The Rivals"—decidedly a more ambitious choice. Quite a small army was at work on this production, with Miss Jones as the invaluable director-in-chief.

Mrs. Malaprop's peculiar choice of diction provided constant entertainment, and was delightfully well-sustained throughout. Lydia Languish and Julia, her friend, were charming and romantic young ladies of the crinoline age, and Sir Anthony Absolute, his son Captain Jack, alias Beverley, Mr. Faulkland, and Sir Lucius O'Trigger had readily acquired a courtly grace in donning their picturesque costumes. Bob Acres, coming up from the country in hunting attire, was soon as elegant a dandy as his friend and abettor, Sir Lucius. And to omit such faithful retainers as the "simple" Lucy, the nimble-witted Fag, the cautious David, and Thomas, the coachman, would be indeed a serious fault.

It was obvious that the audiences were particularly impressed by the charming costumes of the eighteenth century (designed and made by Miss Jones, assisted by a few senior girls), and by the manipulation of scenic effects. The scenes followed one another very quickly and smoothly, thanks to the willing help of a valiant band of scene shifters and other helpers.

This time the play was presented and enthusiastically received on two nights, and has been more recently performed again for the Langley Welfare Centre.

The Dramatic Society has now attained an excellent reputation, both in and out of school, and already there is in the air that very thrilling question: "What shall we do next?"

E. M. F.

CAST OF "THE FARMER'S WIFE"—

<i>Farmer Sweetland</i> , H. S. Mobbs.	<i>Araminta Dench</i> , E. Icke.
<i>Henry Coaker</i> , S. Parkes.	<i>Thirza Tapper</i> , D. Hackett.
<i>Richard Coaker</i> , B. Greenway.	<i>Petronell Sweetland</i> , I. Siviter.
<i>George Smerdon</i> , P. Woodward.	<i>Sibley Sweetland</i> , D. Homer.
<i>Valient Dunnybrig</i> , T. Sleeman.	<i>Louisa Windeatt</i> , E. Key.
<i>The Rev. Septimus Tudor</i> ,	<i>Mary Hearn</i> , D. Price.
C. Greenwood.	<i>Sarah Smerdon</i> , M. Grigg.
<i>Doctor Rundle</i> , T. Mallard.	<i>Susan Maine</i> , L. Pickup.
<i>Churdles Ash</i> , E. F. Willetts.	<i>Sophia Smerdon</i> , V. Sale.
<i>Teddy Smerdon</i> , T. Hale.	<i>Mrs. Rundle</i> , E. Smith.

CAST OF "THE RIVALS."

<i>Thomas</i> , the Coachman,	<i>Capain Absolute</i> , B. Greenway.
A. E. Robinson.	<i>Faulkland</i> , P. Woodward.
<i>Fag</i> , T. L. Mallard.	<i>Bob Acres</i> , D. Price.
<i>Lydia Languish</i> , E. Icke.	<i>The Boy</i> , T. Hale.
<i>Lucy</i> , R. Everett.	<i>Sir Lucius O'Trigger</i> ,
<i>Julia</i> , D. Homer.	H. G. Barlow.
<i>Mrs. Malaprop</i> , D. Hackett.	<i>David</i> , K. Butler.
<i>Sir Anthony Absolute</i> , E. Willetts.	

Junior Dramatic Society.

THE Junior Dramatic Society, having only been organised this year, has not been able to do much yet, but the following plays and scenes have been read:—

“The Grand Cham’s Diamond,” by Form IV.B.

The Trial Scene from “The Merchant of Venice,” by Form III.B.

“The Bishop’s Candlesticks,” by Form III.A.

Scenes from “The Midsummer Night’s Dream,” by Form III.c.

Scenes from “Twelfth Night,” by Form III.B.

M. Morris, Secretary.

The Musical Society.

THIS Society was formed in the Winter Term of 1926. Its main purpose, clearly, is to encourage vocal and instrumental music and to foster a love for everything that is good and lasting in musical art. There is plenty of talent in the School, and everyone should endeavour to sing, or play some *musical* instrument or other, or both. Those who cannot, should be urged to listen to the best music. It is a thousand pities that so many people suffer cheap, unmusical syncopated foolery with such gladness, and are satisfied by it.

On September 11th, 1927, in the School Hall, Mr. Michael Mullinar and Mr. Leslie Bennett, two well-known artists, gave a well-arranged programme of carefully-selected songs and piano-forte solos, ranging from the folk songs to works in the modern idiom. It was very much appreciated. One recalls the swing with which the School joined in the choruses of “Fire Down Below,” “Jolly Carter,” and “What shall we do with the drunken sailor?”

Our best thanks are due to Mr. Towle for his gift of printed programmes.

Later in the term the Society held its first Musical Festival—a musical competition between the Houses. For this occasion the Rev. Walter Wale, A.R.C.O., Vicar of Langley, and Mr. Eric Dawes, M.A., Mus. Bac., very kindly gave their services as adjudicators. Mr. Leslie Towle ably assisted as accompanist.

The standard attained on the whole was quite good; particularly was this the case in the Senior Girls' solo and the House Choirs. In the violin competition the fiddlers—bless them!—were at loggerheads with their instruments, and succeeded in giving us a most touching imitation of the mongrel—abandoned and starving. There are signs, however, that they will behave as decent citizens next time and play us notes which we have heard before. Good luck to them; they are a noble band.

The School is indebted to Mr. W. T. Davies, Chairman of our Governors, for the very beautiful Silver Trophy he has given to the Society. In presenting it to Queen's House, Mr. Davies expressed the hope that the competition for it would become keener each year. It must be said that Queen's House owed much of their success to their regular and well-attended practices and to the enthusiasm of their House Captain, Mildred Grigg. The attendance on this night was poor, but not discouraging. Doubtless when the nature of this competition is more widely known and better understood the hall will be filled with enthusiasts.

This year the Festival will be held on Saturday, May 12th. Professor David de Lloyd, Mus. Doc., of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, is coming to adjudicate, and it is to be hoped that the various competitors will endeavour to reach a high standard. Already there are signs of great activity in the various musical camps, and it is very probable that each event will be more closely contested than was the case last year.

EVENTS AND WINNERS.

1. Junior Pianoforte Solo, "Wayside Pictures" (*Arthur Baynon*).
1st, M. Lawrence. 2nd, S. Bridge. 3rd, E. Macalister. 4th, Wheale.
2. Junior Boys' Solo, "Fairest Isle" (*Purcell*).
1st, Walter. 2nd, Hale. 3rd, Duff. 4th, Baldwin.
3. Junior Violin Solo—Three arranged by *Ethel Bartlett*.
1st, A. North. 2nd, Gorden Stanley. 3rd, Freda Williams and Maurice Dixon.
4. Junior Girls' Solo—"Sing We and Chaunt It" (*de Pearsall*).
1st, D. Bridgwater. 2nd, K. Goodwin. 3rd, M. Burnett.
4th, M. Lawrence.
5. Duet—"Lullaby" (*Brahms*).
1st, M. Grigg, M. Lawrence. 2nd, E. Mackenzie, H. Mansell.
3rd, M. Taylor, D. Homer. 4th, K. Goodwin, M. Burnett.
6. Senior Pianoforte Solo—"Salut d' Amour" (*Elgar*).
1st, M. Lawrence. 2nd, Robbins. 3rd, E. Macalister. 4th, A. Wright.
7. Senior Girls' Solo—"Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal" (*Quilter*), and song of own choice.
1st, I. Siviter. 2nd, M. Taylor. 3rd, E. Mackenzie.
8. House Choirs—"Shepherds' Dance" (*German*).
1st, Queen's. 2nd, King's. 3rd, School and Trinity.

The Visit of the "Upper Sixth Science" to Messrs. Philip Harris' Showrooms and Works.

THE "Upper Sixth Science" were at last granted one of their most cherished desires, when they accompanied Miss Green, Mr. Davies, and Dr. Thompson to the works and show-rooms of Philip Harris and Co., the great manufacturing chemists and makers of the greater part of our science apparatus.

On our arrival we were taken upstairs to a show-room and then into another room where we were treated with the Sun Ray apparatus for a few minutes. We were then taken into the works, where we saw many interesting processes in operation. We watched the assistant filling tubes with tooth paste, saw liquorice being extracted from the root in large open pans, ointment being mixed together in a patent mixer, and pills being made and then coated with sugar or chocolate.

In the laboratories we learned a quick method of estimating nitrogen and also of finding densities.

After this most pleasant visit we left the works "en route" for the Show-rooms and Scientific Department.

Here we visited the chief glassblower, whom we found sitting at his table in a little room occupied only by himself and another glassblower. This gentleman did some wonderful things with a few bits of glass-tubing—he made a flower vase and some flowers, blew a swan and also made a very artistic cigarette-holder, which he presented to Mr. Davies—all with the ease and dexterity of one who had spent his lifetime in attaining this art.

Reluctantly leaving the glassblower, we were conducted to a small room which must have contained many hundreds of pounds' worth of apparatus. Here we were shown some excellent Geiser tubes and also an X-Ray apparatus, by means of which we could discern quite plainly on the screen the contents of a purse, the bones of a hand, or some nails driven into a piece of wood. Here it was shown that a piece of thin lead sheeting was much more effective in stopping the X-Rays than a piece of thick aluminium sheeting.

This concluded our tour of the works and show-rooms, and now our hosts generously provided tea, after which we departed, grateful indeed for the most enjoyable and interesting afternoon which we had spent there.

H. H. Cork, VI.S.

Imagination.

At night when I am tucked in bed
And on the pillow toss my head,
I think I'm driving home my sheep
From the mountains high and steep.

I see the rocks so steep and high
Towering almost to the sky,
A shepherdess sits by a stream,
Waiting for the sun's first beam.

Then she seeks her timorous sheep
And o'er the hill they softly creep,
They hear her voice so sweet and low,
And with her to the fold they go.

Then I awake with great surprise
And gently ope my sleepy eyes,
And find that it was just a dream
And things are never what they seem.

S. Knowles, Form II.B.

Summer.

In summer when the skies are blue,
And flowers bloom of every hue,
The birds are singing the whole day long,
And all are happy—the world feels young.

The children are happy in every way,
From early morn till close of day,
And hearts that feel old in the winter time
Are full of life and joy sublime.

The trees are clothed in cloaks of green,
And the willow caresses the rippling stream,
The roses stately spring to birth,
With profusion of colours to brighten God's earth.

R. Woodall, Form III.C.

Spring.

When the daffodil is here
It tells us winter's nearly past;
The buds all green will soon appear
And spring hath come to us at last.

The crocus, primrose, violet, too,
All come our weary hearts to cheer;
New blades of grass are peeping through,
All nature whispers, "Spring is here."

Everything takes on new life:
 The trees put on their cloak of leaves,
 And woods with song of birds are rife,
 The starlings twitter in the eaves.

The lambkins gambol in the field,
 The bees get busy in the hive,
 The farm-hand learns the plough to wield,
 One feels 'tis good to be alive.

M. Green, Form III.B.

Winter.

The winter day is drawing nigh to night,
 The blue grey clouds have overcast the sky,
 The cows are lowing in the failing light,
 And trees are moaning low a lullaby.

The distant hills are blotted out from sight,
 As though on earth they ne'er had had a place,
 The winding stream lies sullen without light—
 Its tortuous path is difficult to trace.

The flakes of snow long since began to fall,
 A pure white sheet is o'er the cold brown earth—
 It is the dead earth's heavenly funeral pall
 Till spring shall bring the frozen ground new birth.

Beneath the ground full many a flower sleeps,
 While gaunt and bare the woodland giants stand.
 The flowers' fragrance for the summer keeps
 And green leaves wait the waking of the land.

J. W. Manton, Form III.A.

Spring.

"Spring is coming! Spring is coming!"
 All the birds are blithely singing.
 "Drowsy Winter now is going,
 Can't you hear the bluebells ringing?"

See! the tiny shoots are springing,
 Starry flowers are opening wide,
 Rainbow colours bravely vying,
 Richly blending side by side.

All the woodlands ring with gladness,
 Rippling streams with laughter sing,
 This is not the time for sadness,
 Welcome, welcome, happy Spring!

M. E. Boaler, Form IV.B.

Evening.

Once more the sun is setting in the west,
The weary swallows westward fly to rest,
Tired shepherds homeward drive their bleating sheep,
And all the country-side prepares for sleep.

Towards the west the sky is turning red,
Grey wings of night do now begin to spread,
The nightingale begins to tune his lay,
And puts to flight the care of weary day.

The sun has long since set behind the hill,
Except for quiv'ring aspens, all is still,
The moon has risen far into the sky,
And purple clouds of night go drifting by.

M. E. V. Marshall, Form IV.B.

Autumn.

The harvest now is garnered, see! the fields are black and bare,
And yonder, in the distant wood, one sees the fleeting hare;
The lake, which in the summer time reflects the sun's bright rays,
Is hidden now 'tis Autumn with a dim and misty haze.

The forest trees are stately and their garb is fair and gay,
For Autumn brings a bride-like cloak, but 'tis not here to stay;
And bare will be the branches proud, outstretched unto the skies,
While falling softly earthwards are the leaves with sobbing sighs.

Oh, Autumn! you are cruel, for your touch is harsh and drear,
Your kisses on all Nature's joys are filled with bitter fear,
As firm and sure you beckon, with a finger drab and drawn,
The joyous maiden Summer—and you leave us here to mourn.

O. Smith, Form IV.A.

The Old Students' Association.

THE suggestion that an Old Students' Association should be formed was first made in September, 1910, when, as a result of the enterprise shown by Miss A. Massey and Mr. Walker (the headmaster at that time), and the enthusiastic support accorded them by the old scholars, the project was actively launched. The School was then held at the Technical School building in Flash Road, Oldbury, and following the inauguration of the Association, several social evenings were organised in the Art Room there. The Association carried on these functions during the succeeding years until the war period, when the members' interest in the Association naturally diminished. On the conclusion of hostilities, the Association was re-formed under the

presidency of Mr. J. G. Howarth, M.A., the present headmaster. The social side of the organisation was further developed, the place of the Social Evenings and Dances being transferred to the Parish Hall. On the erection of the new School at Moat Road, through the kindness of the Governors and the Headmaster, the Old Students were able to hold their functions in the School Hall.

The aim of the founders of the Association was to promote social intercourse and mutual goodwill between former scholars, and in this I can fairly say that their hopes are being realised. It is pleasant to reflect that the original membership of 10 has now increased to approximately 150. In view of the large number of pupils who have passed through the School it is thought that the membership should be even greater, and it is hoped that all members and present students will do their utmost to increase the ranks.

It was in 1923 that the more athletic members decided to form a football club and a hockey team.

The football team owes its origin to the energies of Mr. E. A. Richards, the present secretary. In the year following its formation the football team figured in the Third Division of the Birmingham Amateur Association. In its next season it gained promotion to Division II. by winning the championship of Division III. A reserve team was formed in the 1926-7 season, and last year it competed in a junior division of the Birmingham Amateur Association. It is interesting to note that both the first and second elevens finished last season in the fourth position of their respective leagues.

The hockey team, under the captaincy of Miss Lilian Guest, although a strong combination, has figured exclusively in friendly circles.

During the 1927-8 Session a Dramatic Society was formed. The prime mover in this effort was Mr. Fred Screen, with Mr. Claude Jephcott as producer. The Society presented its initial performance on March 10th last in the School Hall. The members are very ambitious for the future and are confident of further successes.

About the time of the erection of the new School a desire was felt by the members of the Committee that some effort should be made to perpetuate the memory of the old scholars who made the supreme sacrifice during the war. Numerous suggestions were offered, but it was ultimately decided to erect a stained-glass window in the Main Hall of the New Building. A number of dances were organised for the purpose of raising the necessary funds, and it is a tribute to the untiring energies of the Committee and the loyal support of the members that the requisite amount has been collected and the work put in hand. It is expected that the window will be unveiled some time during September.

For the past few years the provision of the memorial window has been the Association's dominant objective, and now that this has been achieved, the Committee are aiming at the purchase of a Sports Ground containing football, cricket, and hockey pitches, and tennis courts for the use of the members. The Committee confidently appeal to all Old Students to give their whole-hearted support to this new venture.

It has always been the desire of the Association to keep in close relationship with the members of the School, and in accordance with this policy it was resolved at their last general meeting that the boy and girl captains of the School for the time being should automatically be elected to a position on the Committee.

As an expression of their kindly disposition towards their old School, the members of the Association decided in 1927 to give a medal each year to the student adjudged to be the most useful to the School.

The name of the Association has always been the subject of controversy, but it has now been definitely decided that henceforth it shall go by the name of "the Cresconians." This is based upon the Latin motto of the School, which translated means "I grow." It is hoped that this is properly descriptive of the future of the Association.

The 1928-9 Session commences in September next, and all particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Miss E. J. Anderson, 32, Grange Road, West Bromwich.

G. Rose, Chairman.

Old Boys' Football Club.

THE Old Boys' Football Club report another very successful season. The membership of the Club has grown, so that it is now possible to field two XI.'s. This year (1927-8) both teams were members of the Birmingham and District Amateur Association.

The 1st XI. played in the 2nd Division of the Senior League, and finished fourth in the table. This is the second year in succession that this has been accomplished, and this year the team is to be congratulated, since, for more than half the season, the captain was out of the XI. as the result of a broken forearm, sustained during a league match.

L. Ballard was the chief goal scorer, but H. Jennings and F. Screen were not far behind him.

H. S. Mobbs and N. Farrington were chosen for the representative trial match. Their play brought great credit to themselves and the Club.

Friendly matches were played, and many were against 1st Division Clubs.

The 1st team obtained 21 points out of a possible 36 in their league games.

The 2nd XI. finished fifth in the 2nd Division of the Junior Section. This was their first season, and the whole team are to be congratulated on obtaining 13 points out of a possible 32.

Chief goal scorers were S. Screen, A. Richards, and T. Sleeman.

Both teams suffered somewhat through unfortunate injuries to regular players. Business, too, deprived the XI.'s of valuable players.

The Old Boys' 2nd XI. played a friendly match with the School XI., which the latter won by 7 goals to 2. The result was gratifying, since the Old Boys are hoping to draw considerable talent from the School XI. as the boys leave School. Any boy who leaves School and is interested in football is invited to communicate with the Honorary Secretary.

The officials for the 1927-8 season were as follows:—Captain 1st XI., E. Adams; Vice-Captain, W. Hunt. Captain 2nd XI., A. Tatton; Vice-Captain, S. Screen. Treasurer, A. Tatton. Honorary Secretary, A. E. Richards, Esq., 162, Bromford Lane, West Bromwich.

Old Students' Hockey Team.

THE team had a run of bad luck last year. Several of the players persisted in putting themselves out of action almost at the beginning of the season, which meant that a different team had to play every week. Nevertheless, they did very well, and only lost four out of 17 matches. L. Guest.

Old Students at the Birmingham University.

Education. Teaching Diploma, D. Taylor, B.A.; Normal Course, E. Steers, M. Bateman, K. Roberts, O. Farrow, M. Pyne, G. Walker.

Faculty of Arts. E. Johnstone (1st year German), P. Swinburne (1st year B.A.), E. Chorley (2nd year B.A.), C. R. Woodward (2nd year B.A.), C. Greenwood (1st year History), E. Smith (Greek), R. Swain (History).

Faculty of Medicine. A. Betts, C. Birt, F. G. Lewis.

Faculty of Science: Research. T. H. Morton, B.Sc. (Hons.)

Honours Chemistry. H. T. Chamberlain, B.Sc., S. J. Hotchkiss, B.Sc., E. C. Atkins, B.Sc.

Honours Physics. E. J. Chambers, B.Sc.; Third Year, G. Jones (Biochemistry), J. L. Jones (Mathematics); Second Year, G. Nock (Maths.), K. Brown (Maths.), P. Icke (Physics), J. Hebbard (Biology).

Law. A. R. Herbert.

The Parents' Association.

Chairman: Mr. R. C. Woodward, J.P.

Secretary: Mr. A. E. Icke.

THE Parents' Association of the County High School, Langley, was formed in 1926, after a cricket match had been played between the parents and the boy-scholars.

The Association aims at bringing the scholars, staff, and parents into a close alliance, which, it is hoped, will benefit the careers of the boys and girls and the School.

In the future it is hoped that there will be an annual programme of educational lectures and of visits to educational centres such as the University of Birmingham, where many of the old scholars of the High School go to continue their studies.

The present need of the Society is great publicity, and it is hoped that the scholars will make this Society's actions known to their parents at home.

The membership fee is one shilling per year per person. At present there are more than one hundred members, but this is by no means satisfactory considering the number of scholars attending the School.

It is hoped the Society will increase in membership within the next year, and it is also hoped that it will be the means of similar institutions springing up all over the country.

There have been since its inauguration many successful meetings.

In 1926 the first cricket match was played, and after a good game the parents were victorious by the narrow margin of 20 runs.

That same year a shield was bought by subscriptions obtained from the parents, and a number of small silver shields were placed upon it, to be suitably engraved each year with the name of the successful team.

The next year, 1927, another match was played, and the scholars won by a few runs after a hard struggle.

This year, 1928, the rubber will be played, and a good game is eagerly expected on June 23rd.

In April, 1927, a concert, which was intended to bring the parents together, was kindly arranged by Mr. A. Hackett, and performed at the High School, and it was at this meeting most of the members were enrolled.

The same year a social was held at the School, and was enjoyed by everybody, for it included some musical items and a few round games in which all joined.

This year the only meeting that has so far been held took place on March 17th, when an address was given by the Headmaster, Mr. J. G. Howarth, and this proved very instructive and enjoyable, because it gave the parents great insight into School life in general.

Many thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Howarth and members of the Staff for the kind co-operation and help which they have very willingly offered to the Association.

The parents are very pleased with their success thus far, and any parents of the students who wish to join have only to send their subscription of one shilling and their name and address to Mr. A. E. Icke, 141, Barclay Road, Smethwick, and they will be duly enrolled as members.

The parents wish this Association to be really successful, so "roll up" and help to put it on the way to success.

Prizes.

THE prize offered by the Magazine Committee for a design for the cover of the magazine was awarded to A. Watt (Form II.A.). An additional prize was awarded to R. Everett (Form VI.) for work in connection with the developing and carrying out of the design.

The prize for original composition was awarded to J. W. Manton (Form III.A.).



**THE
OLDBURIAN**

**OLDBURY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
MAGAZINE**

OCTOBER.....31st..... 1928

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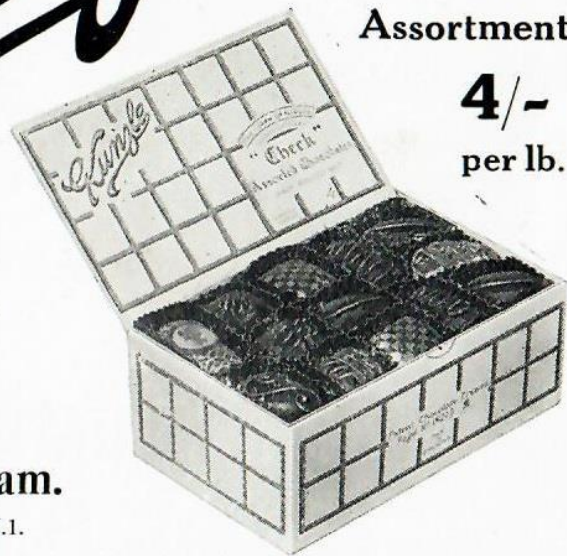
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THE OLDBURIAN.

OLDBURY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
MAGAZINE.

OCTOBER, 1928.

VOL. II., No. 2.

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J. LUGG (II. A), A. WATT (II. A2), G. MARSHALL (II. B).

EDITORIAL.

THE Summer Term, full of strenuous work and games, is over, and we are now at the beginning of a new school year, with a large number of new pupils amongst us and a very full programme for the coming months. As usual in July, many of the boys and girls of the Upper School left us. We miss them, at assembly, in the class rooms and laboratories, and on the playing fields, and wish that they were still with us. All good fortune to them in their careers! It is now the turn of the new Upper School to carry on the good work, and make new records for future School generations to try to beat, and of the rest of the School to work hard in preparation for their turn of responsibility.

Heartiest congratulations to all those who did so well in the July Examinations. The list of their successes this year was a very good one, and was well deserved. Congratulations also to those who made new records on the athletic side, and a special word for the sportsmanship displayed on all occasions. The visit of the Redditch Upper School proved to be a great success; they thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed the entertainment provided for them, and departed full of enthusiasm for their friends of Oldbury School.

The whole School rejoice with Mr. J. B. Richards on his success. It is not often that one hears of anyone obtaining first-class honours in two different subjects at the Degree Examinations

of two Universities, and we are therefore very proud of Mr. Richards.

Congratulations from us all to Mr. Pearson on his marriage. May Mr. and Mrs. Pearson long be with us, and be very happy.

Our apologies are due, and offered, to Miss Hilda Clarke, B.Sc. for the omission of her name from the list of Oldbury pupils at Birmingham University.

Dates to Remember.

Nov. 5, 6.—Mid-term holiday.

Nov. 15, 17.—Dramatic Society's performance of "She Stoops to Conquer."

Dec. 21.—School closes for Xmas holidays.

Jan. 15.—School re-opens.

Valete.

Upper 6.

M. GRIGG.
H. MANSELL.
MOBBS, H.
E. SMITH.
R. EVERETT.
DANIELS, E.

Lower 6.

A. BIRT.
L. PICKUP.
HALE, G. S.
HOLLIES, F. F.
JONES, P. E.
NIGHTINGALE, E.
NOCK, C. N.

5A.

BATES, J. C.
FORD, J.
FREASON, G. A.
GREENWAY, B.
GREENWOOD, W. H.
MALLARD, T.
NOCK, E.
ROBBINS, G. B.
SAMBROOKE, E.
TAYLOR, A.
WEBB, A. C.

5B.

H. EVITTS.
E. E. MOSS.
M. E. PARTRIDGE.

ERRINGTON, A.
OAKES, L.
PEYTON, J. H.
WESTWOOD, K. W.

4R.

H. BILLINGTON.
K. RICHARDS.
M. RICHARDS.
R. WINWOOD.
MACALISTER, J.

4A.

ROBINSON, W. A.

4B.

ELLIS, C.
SMITH, J. C.

4C.

M. MORRIS.
BISHOP, R.
KELLEY, A. E.

3A.

BATEMAN, S. C.

2A.

HALE, A.

2B.

EASTWOOD, E. W.

Salvete.

Girls.

NORA BATE.
NELLY EVANS.
JOYCE GOREHAM.
OLIVE HADLEY.
EUNICE HOPKINS.
JANET MORTON.
DOREEN TAYLOR.
KATHLEEN WILLETS.
MARGERETE BOLTON.
PEGGY BUTLER.
MARGARET BUTLIN.
MARGARET GUEST.
LINDA HANDS.
PEGGY HOMER.
NANCY POOLE.
MARGERY POOLE.
HILDA RICHARDSON.
MARY STOKES.
IRENE BLACKBAND.
DOROTHY BRINTON.
JOAN DUFFIELD.
JEAN NORRIS.
MARY PEARCE.
MARGARET SECKERSON.
BETTY TOOTH.

Boys.

DAVIES, H.
ADAMS, G. E.
AUSTIN.
BIRCH.
BRISCOE.
COATES.
DIXON, W. G.
EDWARDS.
ELLIOTT.
GREEN.
GREAVES, T.
HARROLD.
HILL.
HORTON, W.
JAKEWAYS.
JONES, H. L.
JUKES.
MALE.
MASON.
OAKLEY.
TAYLOR.
BIRCH.
BRADFORD.
JOHNSON, R.
JONES, F. W.
LEE.
MUNSLOW.
PARDOE, W. D. R.
SMALLWOOD.
SMITH, K. A.
TURNER.
BUTLER.

“Our School.”

Oh! Oldbury is a splendid school
For girls as well as boys,
And there we learn to “play the game”
And share each other’s joys.

We joke and laugh and play about,
With true whole-hearted zest;
But when we have our work to do,
Why, then, we do our best.

We take our History, Maths, and French
With never failing cheer,
And other subjects in their turn
We meet without a fear.

The Head a kindly interest takes
 In everybody there,
 And every member of the staff
 That interest helps to share.

So, now another year's begun,
 We'll work with all our might,
 And show them just what we can do
 To keep our record bright.

M. E. Boaler, Form 4R.

Public Examinations, 1928.

THE following successes were obtained in the examinations of the Joint Board of the Northern Universities:—

Higher School Certificate.

M. A. GRIGG (Group III.). H. S. HOBBS (Group IIA).

Matriculation by Subsidiary Subjects in H.S.C.

R. EVERETT. J. V. LEWIS.

Matriculation by School Leaving Certificate Examination.

F. HOLLIES (distinction in Mathematics), R. JAMES (distinction in History), C. NOCK, E. MUCKLOW, J. C. GOODACRE, B. GREENWAY (distinction in Mathematics), R. STEVENS, E. SAMBROOKE (distinctions in Mathematics and Chemistry), P. WOODWARD, B. ADAMS.

School Leaving Certificates.

L. W. BLUNDELL, S. G. HALE, L. HINDS, D. HOMER, J. MORRIS, E. PENNINGTON, M. ROLLASON, J. C. BATES, G. A. FREARSON, W. GREENWOOD, W. NEWTON, E. NOCK (distinction in Chemistry), A. WEBB, D. BALDWIN, K. BUTLER, A. NORTH.

"After the Burden and Heat."

ONE felt it was almost worth while enduring "the burden and heat" of examinations when, shortly before the end of the term, a new departure was made and the Upper Forms of the Redditch Grammar School invited to spend a social afternoon with the "examination forms" of our School.

On Monday, July 23rd, Colonel and Mrs. Scothern, members of the Redditch staff, and the boys and girls arrived about three o'clock in three charabancs. Everyone went first into the Assembly Hall, where our Headmaster welcomed the visitors, and general introductions were made.

After the introductions, everyone repaired to the open air, members of both schools playing tennis and cricket, while some of the girls seized the opportunity of disporting themselves in the "lucid" waters of our swimming baths. Although they doubtless found the temperature arctic, they enjoyed themselves so well that they were loath to leave and allow the boys to enter at 5-0 p.m. The cricket match between teams from the two schools was very enjoyable, and although the Redditch team was defeated, this failed to damp the visitors' spirits, and they entered into everything with an enthusiasm and sportsmanship which everyone admired.

After these arduous recreations, we adjourned to the Hall, where we thoroughly enjoyed several delightful violin solos, excellently rendered by Mr. Turner.

Then came the important item—Tea! Appropriate speeches were made by the boy and girl captains of both schools, and a short speech by our Headmaster was replied to by Colonel A. E. Scothern, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.A., the Headmaster of Redditch School.

We then went to the Hall, and after half-an-hour's lusty community singing, dancing was enjoyed until 8-30, when our visitors had to start for home.

We were very kindly invited by the Redditch Headmaster to visit them next year, and we shall look forward to this, and be pleased to meet old friends, make new ones, and spend together again another enjoyable day.

D. M. Cutler, V.I.S.

Howlers.

A glazier is a man who runs down mountains.

Virgil was in love with a girl named Enid and wrote a lot of books about her.

The Augustan era was a mistake of Augustus.

Mushrooms always grow in damp places so they look like umbrellas.

The Salic Law is that you must take everything with a grain of salt.

Hyperbole—is used in photography and when a photograph has been printed it is usually dipped in Hyper so that the picture will not come off.

"He told the Duke of Argyle who captured him to chop off his head and put it on the tower and send a limb to every city, which they did, and then he climbed up the steps of the steak as if they had been ordinary steps."

Examinations.

The thoughts of the boy at the bottom of the Form.

EXAMINATIONS! What remorse, what bitter memories arise in my mind, as I write the word! Examinations! Those loathsome remnants of some ancient inquisition! Who was the merciless, callous inventor of these tests of knowledge, intended, they would have us believe, to find out what we know, whereas, in reality, they merely bring to light all our ignorance, and reveal all our faults?

Is it not sorrow enough that after a whole term's work, we still believe that Nelson played bowls at Plymouth Hoe, or that Shakespeare wrote "Lycidas"? Why must these small failings of our memory be laid clear for all to know, so that everyone may mock and taunt us? What does it matter whether King Alfred burnt cakes or fried chips? We know he had a good hiding for his pains. If we translate our French too literally and for "démarcher sur le gazon" put "step on the gas," what does it matter? What difference does it make? One sounds as well as the other, and why cannot we be original if we wish?

But worse to come! What is the only result of these torturing tests that rack our nerves, and well-nigh break our spirits? It is a result that bears no redeeming trait, namely, a bad report—one that contains naught else but X's, which our parents simply refuse to believe are just marks of affection from a kind and loving Staff.

Ah, yes! Examinations are but symbols of tyranny from the shadow of which we are never free. They hover near and around us, like storm clouds, bringing with them regrets and remorse. Here's death to the inventor! May his soul be ever tormented with examinations, as a punishment for the ruthless barbarity he practised when he placed his curse upon the rising generations!

"Percy Cuted," Form VI.S.

Trinity House.

Captains - A. E. Key and H. S. Mobbs
Sports Cpts. - D. Hadley and H. S. Mobbs
Secretary - D. G. Homer

HAVING now come to the close of the last term of the school year, we hope by now to have repeated our last year's success of winning the Inter-House Championship Cup.

The following are some of the results obtained by the members of Trinity House during last term :—

Our ex-captain, H. S. Mobbs, was successful in the Higher School Certificate Examination, while we had several successful candidates in the Joint Board Matriculation Examination. These were :—R. J. James (distinction in history) ; and J. C. Goodacre who each gained their Matriculation and M. E. D. G. Homer, M. Rollason, W. H. Greenwood and W. Newton who obtained School Leaving Certificates. From these results it may be seen that we are keeping up our reputation with regard to work.

In the Musical Festival held in 1928, Trinity improved their previous year's record. The House Choir gained first place in the contest, while the Boys' and Girls' Unison Choirs obtained second and third places respectively. In the Solo for Old Students, an old member of Trinity, H. Chamberlain, came second.

The cricket team was not quite so successful as last season. Three matches were played, in which the XI. defeated King's and Queen's but lost to School. This defeat was quite unexpected as both Queen's and King's had easily defeated School House. The results of the matches were :—

Trinity 136 for 5 wickets, versus King's 32.

Trinity 88 for 5 wickets, versus Queen's 28.

School 82, versus Trinity 73.

The final results of the games showed that Trinity and Queen's had tied for first place and Trinity are to be congratulated on winning the Cricket Championship two successive seasons.

In the Inter-House Tennis Championship, though we did not equal our last year's triumph, our two teams did very good work. Our B team, in fact, won all their matches while the A team lost to School, defeated King's and lost a hard fought struggle with Queen's by 8 games to 7.

Although the Athletic Sports brought us no outstanding success, once again Trinity won the Tug-of-War competition, this being the third successive sports meeting at which the feat has been accomplished. 3rd place in the High Jump was gained by J. C. Goodacre and also a 3rd in the 220 yards by Jones. The Junior members of the House again proved themselves keen and showed excellent promise for future years.

The Swimming Sports gave the juniors another opportunity for showing their eagerness and the boys gained second place while the girls came third in the final results.

Should these successes, both in work and in physical prowess, continue, we may confidently expect to maintain our position as Champion House.

A. E. Key.

H. S. Mobbs.

Queen's House.

Captains	-	M. A. Grigg and P. E. Jones
Vice-Cpts.	-	H. Mansell and A. Bradley
Sports Cpts.	-	M. A. Grigg and P. E. Jones
Secretary	-	P. Woodward

THE Summer term has been fairly successful for Queen's House.

At the beginning of the term the Musical Festival was held and for the second time the House was successful in winning the Cup. However, this year the Cup was only won by about 20 points, but there is more satisfaction in winning a cup after a close struggle than "running away with it." The boys' and girls' choirs, conducted by M. Grigg, each came first in their unison songs.

At the Joint School Athletic Sports, the School did much better than it has done in previous years, gaining altogether 17 points, the previous highest being 5 points, of these Queen's House Captain, P. Jones, gained eleven and also the Lord Mayor's Cup for the broad jump. This is a great credit to the House as it is the first time that such a trophy has been won for the School.

On the School Sports Day the House was again well represented in the races. The boys, however, were not so successful as the girls, only one or two gaining points for the House. Once more Hazel Mansell gained the Cup for the Senior Champion. The girls' relay team managed this year to break the record for the House relay race. The race was a "run away," but we had made up our minds to break the record at any cost and this we managed to do.

For the first time since we have been at the new School there were swimming sports held for the boys and for the girls. The boys did not do particularly well, but the girls did fairly well. They won the House relay race quite easily and came second on the whole.

This year the boys were more successful in cricket, beating King's and School Houses and being placed first, equal with Trinity. Several members of the 1st and 2nd cricket elevens were Queen's House boys.

For the first time for several years, cricket matches were not played by the girls. In tennis, however, the girls were successful and gained the highest number of points.

In work, as well as in play, the House has done quite well. Of the two who passed Higher School Examination, one was from Queen's House, one from Trinity. In the Matriculation Examination, ten people obtained matric., four of whom were Queen's—B. Adams, P. Woodward, B. Greenway, E. Sambrooke—and five more of our number gained School Leaving Certificates—L.

Hinds, J. Morris, A. Webb, C. Bates and G. Frearson. These results are highly creditable to the House.

So it is seen that the House has had a very satisfactory term. As old captains, we wish the House the best of luck in the future.

M. Grigg.
P. Jones

King's House.

Captains - R. Everett and F. Hollies
Vice-Cpts. - E. Mucklow and G. Lyman
Sports Cpts. - R. M. Everett and F. Hollies
Secretaries - K. Boneham and E. F. Willetts

AFTER a great deal of preparation the Musical Festival was held in the beginning of the term, and King's House was forced to be satisfied with third place in the final. We were very disappointed for we had hoped for something better, but it was not the fault of the individual competitors, but lack of numbers that accounted for our downfall. It is to be hoped that this state of affairs will never again come to pass and that our housemates will never again be reproached for lack of enthusiasm. There must be talent in the House other than that shown by the gallant stalwarts who came forward. This was of the best, for where we competed, first, second, or third places were obtained, but, unfortunately, the points of the minor places, fourth, fifth and sixth, counted in the grand total. Hence quantity overcame quality. E. MacAlister, M. Boaler and D. Stevens are to be congratulated on gaining first places, while M. Lewis, G. Robbins and F. Bridge obtained second places where they competed. G. Lyman is especially thanked for so ably conducting the choirs.

The next outstanding event in this term was the Annual Athletic Sports, and just by the way of a change King's emerged on top! To those who did their bit that day great credit is due. The boys' relay team ran beautifully without a hitch, and won the event fairly easily. Once more records were broken—six in all—and we got four of them. K. Boneham raised, or rather elongated the Junior Girls' High Jump, 4ft. 2½ ins., and E. F. Willetts broke his own quarter-mile record of 61 3-5 seconds in 58 2-5 seconds, and furthermore, to his own and everyone else's astonishment beat Blundell in the mile with the record time of 5 mins., 11 secs. He won the coveted Senior Championship which School House have held so long.

At cricket, we were not so successful, winning one match and losing two, but this must be made up for in the football season.

Again in the Swimming Sports, the boys did not cover themselves with glory, having few representatives, but even then they were not bottom. The girls, however, made good this and the sad results of the tennis matches by "swimming" to the top. Now, King's girls do not forget to keep this up!

Examinations were indulged in once more by the Fifth and Sixth Forms, and the results were a record. Our one representative in the Higher School Certificate Subsidiary Stage, passed in all her subjects. In the Joint Board School Certificate, our captain, F. Hollies, gained a Matriculation Certificate and a mark of distinction in Mathematics and E. Mucklow also gained a Matriculation Certificate.

On the whole we have had a very successful term and it must be kept up. A little more enthusiasm would carry us right to the heights and we hope it will be forthcoming next term. This opportunity is taken to wish all those who have left us, especially our captains, the best of good fortune and we hope that their successors will be as capable.

R. M. Everett.

E. F. Willetts.

School House.

Captains	-	J. V. Lewis and E. Pennington
Vice-Cpts.	-	L. W. Blundell and D. Rudd
Sports Cpts.	-	L. Davies and E. Pennington
Secretary	-	B. Roberts

FOR the second time since coming up to the new building we write of the activities of School House. It was pointed out in last term's notes that, though the House had experienced a bad period, it was bidding fair to regain its former high position. The confidence shown by all members of the House, whose efforts have never flagged and who still keep smiling while their opponents pile up the score, is now being rewarded, for in almost every sphere the Old Gold has been more conspicuous than it was last year.

Perhaps the most noteworthy effort was in the Second Annual Musical Competition. The first competition in 1927 found School House at the bottom of the list, being separated from Queen's, the winning House, by about 300 points. This time we must again congratulate Queen's on gaining first place, but School House was placed second, being only twenty points behind. Who knows but that we may go even further in 1929? Also, the most striking remark made during the evening by Dr. de Lloyd, the adjudicator, was on the singing of Lily Pickup of School House.

The test piece was Schumann's "To Music," and the judge, awarding Lily the maximum points, said her rendering was "a thoroughly artistic rendering by an excellent voice." This is praise indeed from such a great musician. Our violinist, G. Stanley, carried off the honours for the open violin solo, though he was probably the youngest player to reach the final. Much greater enthusiasm was shown this year, and though, of course, everyone could not get into the final, we thank all who gave up their time to practise for individual events or to attend choir practice.

In the Girls' Swimming Sports no notable event was achieved—we hope for better things next year.

However, our boys, in their Swimming Sports more than counter balanced the misfortunes of the girls. The results were as follows:—School House 58 points, Trinity House 31, King's House 20, and Queen's House 19. It is only fair to mention, however, that P. Jones, the "hope" of Queen's House, was prevented by illness from taking part. Blundell (School) obtained the Senior Championship and Oxborrow, also of School House, was runner-up.

The House as a whole was not outstandingly successful in the Athletic Sports, though this was partially atoned for by the individual success of J. Vann who became Junior Champion. In the Senior events Blundell broke the half-mile record and was only robbed by Willetts of Championship Honours. Later Blundell won the steeplechase for the fourth time in succession, beating his three previous records for the course.

After the girls' tennis matches we found that we were third on the list.

In the boys' cricket matches some surprising results were obtained. The joys of this game are enhanced by the fact that one can forecast results less correctly than in almost any other game. For example, School House were defeated by King's and Queen's, King's and Queen's were each in their turn badly beaten by Trinity, and yet, strange though it may seem—School beat Trinity. It was a thoroughly interesting game, the result being in doubt till the last ball from Davies hit the wicket. School House, batting first, compiled 86, of which Roberts was responsible for 27. Mobbs and Goodacre opened steadily for Trinity, but most of the other batsmen were ill at ease against the good bowling by Davies and Roberts. Less than 40 were recorded when the seventh wicket fell, but at this point H. G. Jones made a great effort to pull the game round. The eighth and ninth wickets fell during his stay and he still hit at every ball until Davies beat him and finished the match with a low ball which shot under Jones' bat. The score was 69, of which Jones made 30.

Turning to the more serious side of School life we would like, on behalf of the members of the House, to congratulate T. Morton, who has obtained his M.Sc. degree in Chemistry at Birmingham University and J. Chambers who has his B.Sc. degree with First Class Honours in Physics. Both these are ex-captains of School House. Also we congratulate our Quintet—K. Butler, A. North, E. Pennington, L. Blundell and E. Nock—on obtaining their School Leaving Certificates.

Congratulations also to all those throughout the School who in examinations or in other spheres have brought honour to the School.

E. Pennington.
J. V. Lewis.

School Alphabet.

- A** stands for Algebra, with its X, Y and Z's,
B for Biology, where they cut off frogs' heads;
C stands for Chemistry, where we conjure up gases,
D for Domestic Craft, where we polish the brasses.
E stands for English, whose joys none can tell,
F for French—on aime bien cette langue si belle;
G stands for Gymnastics, which most of us love,
H for History—of kings, who are above.
I stands for Ink, which Percy brings round,
J for the month of June when exams. do abound;
K stands for Kipling, whose works we are taught,
L for the Library, in which knowledge is sought.
M stands for Music with its Doh, Me, Soh, Doh,
N for the Northern Board which, alas, we all know;
O stands for Oldbury, far famed for its School,
P for the Prefects, who over us rule.
Q stands for Questions—which all of us hate,
R for Rehearsals—come soon and stay late;
S stands for Swotting, oh! History and Maths.,
T for the Tadpoles which swim in the baths.
U stands for Unity, at which we all aim,
V for the Vigour displayed in each game;
W stands for Woodwork, which boys have to learn,

- X for Xmas, for parties we yearn.
Y stands for Yawning, which makes teachers sad,
Z for Zoology which is not at all bad.

B. Lewis, Form V.A.

A Visit to London—May 21st and 22nd, 1928.

DURING this Summer Term, a most interesting and profitable visit was made to London by a number of senior boys and girls. All arrangements were excellently carried out under the supervision of Mrs. L. G. Quayle and Miss E. F. Green, to whom the most sincere thanks of the whole party are due. Although the trip was made from a special educational point of view, the party found plenty of time for general sight-seeing.

Everyone met at Snow Hill Station by 7-20 a.m., and after a three hour journey, arrived at Paddington. The party crossed London and went straight to Regent's Park. After visiting the Aquarium and the Reptile House, we had dinner. During the afternoon, the various parts of the Zoo were visited, and after having had a last look round after tea, we left the Park and proceeded towards Baker St. Station. Finding ourselves close to Madame Tussaud's, it was decided by a general vote to pay the famous waxworks a visit, and time was found for the stronger-minded members of the party to see the Chamber of Horrors. Regretfully leaving the building at about 9 o'clock, the girls went by tube to Russell Square, where they were staying for the night, while Mrs. Quayle accompanied the six boys across London to the Y.M.C.A. Hostel at Tottenham Court Road.

On Tuesday morning we paid a visit to the National Gallery at about 10 a.m. We left the Gallery in time to see the Changing of the Guard at Whitehall, returning via Trafalgar Square. Leaving the Galleries at 1 p.m., we proceeded along the Thames Embankment, passing the Cenotaph, the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, to the Tate Gallery, where a hot dinner awaited us. Having spent a very pleasant afternoon here and having had tea, we paid a hurried visit to the Royal Academy in Oxford Street, going along the Mall and seeing Buckingham Palace and St. James'.

Having said "au revoir" to the Metropolis we caught the 7-10 p.m. from Paddington and arrived at Snow Hill at 9-10 p.m., having spent a most enjoyable two days away from School.

L. Blundell.
E. Key.

Athletic Sports, 1928.

ONCE again Whit-Wednesday proved a happy choice for our Annual Sports, and we were able to enjoy some very interesting contests on a really fine afternoon.

The following new records were made:—

GIRLS.

Relay Race: Queen's, 62secs. (old record 66 $\frac{1}{5}$ secs.).

Junior Long Jump: K. Boneham (King's), 14ft. (old record 13ft. $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins.).

BOYS.

Steeplechase: Blundell (School), 10mins. 28 $\frac{4}{5}$ secs. (old record 10mins. 52secs.).

One Mile: Willetts (King's), 5mins. 11secs. (old record 5mins. 15 $\frac{1}{5}$ secs.).

Senior 880 yards: Blundell (School), 2mins. 21 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs. (old record 2mins. 29 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs.).

Senior 440 yards: Willetts (King's), 58 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs. (old record 61 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs.).

Junior 440 yards: Dixon (Trinity), 69secs. (old record 69 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs.).

CHAMPIONSHIPS.

<i>Senior Girls</i> : H. Mansell	...	...	...	20 points.
M. Morris	...	...	...	6 points.
R. Everett	...	...	...	6 points.
<i>Junior Girls</i> : K. Boneham	...	...	...	12 points.
M. Kings	...	...	...	9 points.
<i>Senior Boys</i> : Willetts	...	...	...	26 points.
Blundell	...	...	...	15 points.
Jones, F. E.	...	...	...	15 points.
<i>Junior Boys</i> : Vann	...	...	...	15 points.
Dixon	...	...	...	10 points.
<i>House Points</i> : King's	...	...	...	80 points.
Queen's	...	...	...	72 points.
School	...	...	...	49 points.
Trinity	...	...	...	48 points.

J. B. R.

Joint Sports, 1928.

THIS year we found it impossible to enter for any of the team races, so that our entries were confined to individual events. All the School competitors did well, especially Jones, Blundell and Willetts.

By jumping 19ft. 3½ins., Philip Jones secured 1st place in the Long Jump and also the Lord Mayor of Birmingham's Cup which goes to the winner of this event. Jones followed this success by obtaining 3rd place in the High Jump, with a jump of 5ft.

Blundell raised our hopes in the Mile race. Returning very strongly he obtained the lead in the last lap and looked a winner but was beaten into second place in the last 50 yards. His time was not given officially but it was approximately 5 mins. 5 secs.—very fine running indeed.

Willets won his heat in the Quarter Mile after a gruelling race, but his effort exhausted him and although running well, he was not placed in the final.

Success in the individual events is gratifying but now we must aim at success in the team events, and we shall only succeed when we have a large number of boys keen and enthusiastic and willing to practise.

J. B. R.

Girls' Games.

UP till this year a fair number of cricket matches have been played against other schools. This Summer, however, only one match against St. Paul's, Edgbaston, was played, and for the first time St. Paul's managed to beat the School team. This was due to the fact that the team had very few practices, as the members of the team had different sports' days and could not practise together.

There was a decided improvement in the condition of the tennis courts this year. The courts have been well used by the girls and the standard of the tennis has greatly improved, as was shown during the House tennis tournament.

The inter-House tennis tournament resulted as follows:—

Queen's	64	games.
Trinity	62	„
School	54	„
King's	29	„

No inter-school tennis matches were played but it is hoped that next season we shall be able to arrange these.

M. Grigg.

Cricket.

THIS year the School teams, under the guidance of Mr. Richards and Mr. Pearson, have given an excellent account of themselves, especially in view of the fact that the First XI. had lost the services of such stalwarts as T. Sleeman, C. Greenwood, Jennings, and Icke, while the second team were without Horwood, Burborough, W. Horton, and N. Griffiths, in addition to those who filled vacancies in the First XI.

The first team, under the captaincy of H. S. Mobbs, with P. E. Jones as vice-captain, completed a successful season, having played 15 matches, of which 10 were won and 5 lost.

This year, for the second time in succession, the School defeated the Parents. In fact, with all due respect to the "rheumy wise old heads" (to cite the bard), they got a severe trouncing. The Parents, batting first, compiled 68, of which Mr. Miller made 47. Unfortunately, he sustained an injury to his back, which adversely affected his bowling. Mobbs and Jones opened the School innings, and scored 18, before Jones was dismissed for 13, by Mr. Key. This was the only success that attended the Parents, for when Goodacre joined his captain, the two carried the score to 110 without being separated. When Mobbs declared, he himself had scored 52 not out, and Goodacre 37 not out. In this same match, Greenwood took 6 of the Parents' wickets for 24 runs.

Another noteworthy match was played *versus* the Staff of Philip Harris and Co. Mr. Miller also figured in this match, but did not bat long, being one of the eight victims of W. Greenwood. The School, batting first, scored a mere 39, Mobbs and Jones both just reaching double figures. So unplayable, however, was Greenwood that Philip Harris' team had 9 wickets down for 17 runs. A last wicket stand just gave the visitors the victory, but Greenwood had the remarkable analysis of 8 wickets for 19 runs. He is to be presented with the ball, suitably inscribed, with which he accomplished this feat. The results of the first team's matches were:—

Date.	H. or A.	Winners.	Score.	Losers.	Score.
May 5.	A.	Kidderminster ...	106	Oldbury ...	56
May 9.	A.	Halesowen ...	168	Oldbury ...	88
May 16.	H.	Oldbury ...	72	Smethwick ...	65
May 23.	A.	Oldbury ...	55	West Bromwich ...	36
June 6.	H.	Oldbury ...	91	West Bromwich ...	33
June 9.	H.	Oldbury ...	110	Kidderminster ...	53
June 16.	A.	St. Philip's ...	59	Oldbury ...	47
June 20.	H.	Oldbury ...	142 for 7	Aston Comm. ...	23

June 23.	H.	Oldbury ...	110 for 1	Parents ...	68
July 18.	A.	Oldbury ...	100	Lawrence's Coll....	22
July 19.	H.	School ...	95	Staff ...	87
July 20.	H.	Philip Harris ...	47	Oldbury ...	39
July 26.	H.	Old Boys ...	65 for 5	Oldbury ...	60
	H.	Oldbury ...	38 for 1	Redditch ...	30

The best averages for the season were—

BATTING.

	Total.	Highest Score.	Avg.
Goodacre ...	168	37*	21.0
Hollies ...	164	45	16.4
Mobbs ...	140	52*	14.0
Jones ...	94	25	8.6

BOWLING.

	Overs.	M'd'ns.	Runs.	Wkts.	Avg.
Greenwood...	75.1	25	159	36	4.42
Cutler ...	22	5	51	11	4.62
Taylor ...	49	11	135	22	6.12
Hollies ...	43	13	97	14	7.00

The Second XI., with J. V. Lewis and E. F. Willetts as captain and vice-captain respectively, played 9 matches, of which 5 were won and 4 lost. Robinson, Webb, and, later in the season, Roberts bowled consistently well. Robinson and Webb also met with success in batting, the former getting 21 not out against Smethwick and the latter getting 23 against West Bromwich. In the match against West Bromwich J. V. Lewis made 32 not out, and declared with the score at 69 for 4 wickets. West Bromwich were dismissed for 42.

This year, the Third XI. completed its first season. Four matches were played under the captaincy of Charlie Greenwood, who appears to be following the cricketing traditions of his two elder brothers. His team won two matches and lost two.

On the occasion of the visit of the Redditch School, an eleven chosen from the Oldbury candidates for external examinations opposed a similar team from the Redditch ranks. Redditch made 30, which Oldbury beat without a wicket falling. It should, however, be chronicled that if a certain Redditch player had driven further to the off he would have removed about three slates from the roof of the school.

Altogether, the season was a highly successful one from a match-winning standpoint, but also, I am pleased to say, from a far more important standpoint, for every match was played in that spirit of absolute sportsmanship which matters more than the actual result.

J. V. Lewis (Secretary).

Swimming.

THE Summer weather being very favourable, the baths were a source of delight to almost every boy and girl in the School, and even on some of the colder days many enthusiastic swimmers took dips.

This year, for the first time, Swimming Sports took place for both boys and girls.

The Girls' Swimming Sports were held on Friday, July 20th, and were very successful.

EVENTS AND WINNERS.

1. Width for Beginners.
1st, G. Ackrill. 2nd, J. Morris. 3rd, K. Oxborrow.
2. Length for Last Year Beginners.
1st, H. Billington. 2nd, M. Knott. 3rd, B. Lewis.
3. Two Lengths.
1st, K. Goodwin. 2nd, K. Richards. 3rd, I. Johnson.
4. Diving.
1st, B. Lewis. 2nd, D. Jones. 3rd, R. Everett.
5. Fancy Dress.
1st, D. Jones. 2nd, E. MacAllister. 3rd, R. Everett.
Winner for Fancy Dress Costume, R. Everett.
6. House Relay.

Queen's: K. Goodwin, M. Morris, M. Errington, D. Jones.

The Boys' Swimming Sports were held in the School Baths on Tuesday, July 24th. Unfortunately the weather was decidedly unsettled, and the water was very chilly indeed. Nevertheless, nothing daunted, a large number of boys turned out to swim for their Houses.

The points awarded for the races, except the team races, were 6 for the 1st, 3 for the 2nd, and 2 for the third, and for the team race the points were 8, 5, 3, and 2. Each competitor gained one point for his House for entering the sports, otherwise no points were given for the heats.

HOUSE POINTS.

1. School House, 58 points.
2. Trinity House, 31 points.
3. King's House, 20 points.
4. Queen's House, 19 points.

The individual results were very satisfactory, and several exciting events were witnessed by the watchers assembled round the sides of the baths.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS.

1. Six Lengths (handicap).
1st, R. Oxborrow (S.). 2nd, L. W. Blundell (S.). 3rd, R. Musgrave (S.).
Time, 2mns. 25 1/5secs.

2. Two Lengths (breast stroke).
1st, R. Oxborrow (S.). 2nd, P. E. Jones (Q.). 3rd, S. Vann (S.).
Time, 38 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs.
3. One Breadth (beginners).
1st, Waterhouse (Q.). 2nd, Hadley (T.). 3rd, Ryder (T.).
Time, 8 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs.
4. Two Lengths (open).
1st, P. E. Jones. (Q.). 2nd, R. Oxborrow (S.). 3rd, L. W. Blundell (S.).
Time, 33 $\frac{1}{5}$ secs.
5. One Length on back.
1st, L. W. Blundell (S.). 2nd, A. Bill (T.). 3rd F. H. Hollies (K.).
Time, 19 $\frac{4}{5}$ secs.
6. Dive.
1st, L. W. Blundell (S.). 2nd, R. Musgrave (S.). 3rd, F. Hollies (K.).
7. Two Lengths (under 14 years).
1st, B. Harper (K.). 2nd, Pillow (T.). 3rd, Knott (S.).
Time, 44 $\frac{4}{5}$ secs.
8. One Length in Clothes.
1st, L. W. Blundell (S.). 2nd, S. G. Hale (K.). 3rd, Barlow (Q.).
9. Team Race (8 lengths).
1st, School House. 2nd, Queen's House. 3rd, King's House.
4th, Trinity House. Time, 2mns. 25 $\frac{1}{5}$ secs.
Champion, L. W. Blundell (S.), 15 points.
Runner-up, R. Oxborrow (S.), 13 points.
D. Rudd.
L. W. Blundell.

Musical Society.

THE Second Annual Musical Competition, for the Challenge Cup presented by Mr. W. T. Davies, was held in the School Hall on Saturday, May 12th, 1928. The adjudicator was David de Lloyd, Esq., Mus.Doc., the Professor of Music at the University College, Aberystwyth, and the accompanists Mr. T. Grigg, L.R.A.M., and Mr. T. L. Davies.

There was a large and appreciative audience, and the adjudicator remarked on the keenness of the competition between the Houses. Queen's House again carried off the trophy, but by a very narrow margin. The events, given in the order in which they appeared on the programme, were judged as follows:—

- JUNIOR PIANOFORTE SOLO—"Elfentanz" — Grieg.
1, David Stevens, King's. 2, May Lewis, King's.
3, Geraldine Marshall, School.
- BOYS' CHOIRS—"Creation's Hymn" Beethoven.
1, Queen's. 2, Trinity. 3, King's.
- SENIOR PIANOFORTE SOLO—"Nocturne in E flat," Op. 9, No. 2 Chopin.
1, Eileen Macallister, King's. 2, George Robbins, King's.
3, John V. Lewis, School.
- JUNIOR GIRLS' SOLO—"Out Over the Forth" Schumann.
1, Margaret Boaler, King's. 2, Kathleen Goodwin, Queen's.
3, Evelyn Burrell, Queen's.

- VIOLIN SOLO (Open)—“Prelude from Sonata VII.” *Corelli.*
 1, Gordon Stanley, School. 2, Frank Bridge, King’s.
 3, Freda Williams, Queen’s.
- OLD STUDENTS’ SOLO—“Like to the Damask Rose” *Elgar.*
 (The points obtained by a competitor counted to House he or she
 was in whilst at School.)
 1, Madge Warr, Queen’s. 2, Hedley Chamberlain, Trinity.
 3, Edith Hadley, School.
- JUNIOR BOYS’ SOLO—“Begone Dull Care” *Traditional.*
 1, Raymond Walters, Queen’s. 2, Eric Hale, Queen’s.
 3, Donald Baldwin, Trinity.
- GIRLS’ CHOIRS—“Where the Bee Sucks” *Arne.*
 1, Queen’s. 2, King’s. 3, Trinity.
- SENIOR GIRLS’ SOLO—“To Music” *Schumann.*
 1, Lily Pickup, School. 2, Mabel Burnett, Queen’s.
 3, Kathleen Goodwin, Queen’s.

Dr. de Lloyd remarked that Lily Pickup’s effort was a “thoroughly artistic rendering by an excellent voice,” and awarded her the maximum points.

MIXED CHOIRS—

1, Trinity. 2, King’s. 3, School.

The choirs throughout the evening were conducted by Eileen Key (Trinity), Mildred Grigg (Queen’s), George Lyman (King’s), and John V. Lewis (School).

The cup now stands in the School Hall, in a beautiful oak case, with board for names of winning Houses. This was also presented by Mr. W. T. Davies.

J. V. Lewis.

Literary, Dramatic, Debating and Scientific Society.

President, Mr. J. G. Howarth, M.A.

Vice-Presidents—

Miss G. Jones, M.A., Miss J. Davies, Dr. R. W. Thomason,
 Mr. K. D. Hopkins, B.Sc., Mr. B. C. Pearson, B.A.,
 Mr. R. A. F. Newton-Hearne, B.A.

Chairman, H. S. Mobbs.

Secretary, G. Lyman.

Vice-Chairman, M. Grigg.

Treasurer, P. Woodward.

Committee—

L. Hinds, F. Hollies, B. Adams, H. Evitts, K. Boneham,
 J. Pardoe, D. Homer, L. Davies.

NO general weekly meetings of the society were held during the Summer term, but theatre parties were formed and the plays “Julius Cæsar,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” and “She Stoops to Conquer” were greatly enjoyed.

On June 24th there was a meeting of the committee at which it was decided that our Dramatic Society should be affiliated to the British Drama League. This League exists to promote the study, presentation and appreciation of good drama and to link together all those interested in any branch of dramatic art. A glance at

the list of the governing body of the League, which includes such well known names as Sir J. Martin Harvey, Sir Barry V. Jackson, H. Granville Barker, Sir Michael Sadler, Arnold Bennett, shows that affiliation with such a League will not only be a great help to us, but also a great honour. The administrative staff of the League will be ready to give us advice on any point in connection with the drama, and we shall find particularly valuable the privilege of borrowing from the extensive League library books of reference and copies of plays for reading.

At the same meeting it was decided that the next play to be produced for public performance should be Oliver Goldsmith's comedy, "She Stoops to Conquer."

It was also arranged that a party should be held on Tuesday, July 24th, to which all members of the society, together with the members of the Staff, should be invited. This party proved most enjoyable and was voted by all to be one of the best parties that the School has ever had.

The society acknowledges with thanks a gift to the Dramatic Wardrobe by Freda Breakwell, who has kindly presented the charming, old fashioned, blue silk dress that many of us remember as being worn by Miss Thurza Tapper for the party at her "villa residence."
G. Lyman, Secretary.

A Visit to Stratford.

ON Wednesday, July the 25th, the cast of "She Stoops to Conquer"—the next play to be produced for public performance by the Dramatic Society—visited the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford to see the play performed by professional actors.

The journey was made in great style—no "Midland Red" or charabanc for us!—in private cars, kindly lent and driven by Miss Foster and three of her friends, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Towle and Mr. Holden. "Our" cars, lined up in the School drive, looked most impressive.

At first the weather did not promise to be at all fine, but after a sharp shower of rain a start was made about 10-30, many envious "left-behinds" giving us a hearty send-off.

We passed through Harborne and Moseley into the Stratford Road, which led us to Henley-in-Arden, a picturesque country town of half-timbered houses. By this time the Sun was supreme in the sky, so we had a short time to stretch our legs and to look round the town. As two of the cars did not arrive, it was decided that they had gone another way,—they had,—they were already at Stratford waiting for the rest!

Once more we took our seats and moved on, seeking a spot for lunch. This was found by Mr. Hopkins in a side lane not far from Stratford, and whilst some went to look for the missing cars, the others prepared lunch by the wayside. After this, when all our litter had been burnt, we re-embarked for "The Swans' Nest," where the cars were garaged.

A short walk into the town brought us to the Theatre which was reached just in time. The acting was very fine notwithstanding the heat, which must have been very trying to the performers. If we reach their high standard—and there is no reason to the contrary—we shall do better than ever before. This we intend to do, if hard work can achieve it!

Returning to "The Swan's Nest" we had tea, after which some went on the river, and some into the town.

The return journey was begun at 7-30 and the drive through the Warwickshire lanes in the cool of the evening was most enjoyable.

It was a jolly day—may there be another!

We are most grateful to Miss Jones, who arranged the party, and to the ladies and gentlemen who so generously lent and drove their cars.

E. F. Willetts.

Girl Guides.

Officers :—

Captain, F. D. Tweedie. Lieutenant, J. Davies.

Company Leader, D. Rudd.

Patrol Leaders, R. Everett, E. Pennington, J. Morris, L. Howl.

THE Guides returned to their regular meetings full of renewed vigour and enthusiasm. There were quite a good number of recruits ready to be taught the elementary principles of guiding, then, looking very smart, they were enrolled.

Parents were invited to the ceremony, and watched each patrol leader lining up her recruits, presenting them to the officer, who received them into the sisterhood in the usual manner.

The rest of the meetings were spent in working for proficiency badges and in competitions between the patrols. Also each Guide worked hard to obtain funds for camp, and the company bought enamelware, a boiler, milk churn, incinerator, new tents and other company necessities.

We had planned to spend our camp at Stoke Fleming, near Dartmouth, and since there were eighty Oldbury and Wolverhampton Guides, an advance party was sent three days ahead of the rest. They arrived safely, and by Monday night had pitched all the tents and installed the food. The other Guides arrived safely (in the rain!) and went to bed.

The next day proved fine, and fun and work began in earnest. All the Guides were divided into groups for work, under the supervision of a Guider, and each group in turn carried out the various necessary duties. There were many amusements, too, such as bathing, rambles, trips to Dartmouth and one trip to Torquay. One night we visited a concert, given by a party of Boy Scouts, in the Village Hall.

In the morning at eleven o'clock we had colours and prayer, and received our letters and parcels. After colours in the evening we sang songs round the camp fire.

Naturally all were sorry to strike camp, and all too soon we found ourselves in the train for Birmingham, where we arrived about eleven p.m. on Friday, 10th August.

During the latter half of the holiday our swimmers practised for the Wolverhampton Swimming Sports, held on September 13th. Six of our company gave life-saving demonstrations with land drill. Some Guides entered for the Fancy Dress race, in which I. Johnstone gained 2nd place for costume and M. Miller came first in the race.

Thus it may be seen that we have had a busy and successful term.

R. Everett.

A Day at Camp.

At half-past seven the whistle blows,
No matter if it rains or snows,
For that's the time we campers rise,
Though sleep can scarcely leave our eyes.

When breakfast's o'er, without delay,
We start our work set for the day,
And anyone who dares to shirk
Is liable to double work.

At half-past ten, all looking mute,
The flag is raised, we all salute;
The letters then are handed round,
And for some time we hear no sound.

At dinner time we all devour,
And then prepare for resting hour;
We dare not talk, we read or write,
In case a Guider comes in sight.

Then to the shore we wend our way,
'Tis understood we bathe each day;
We swim and dive and jump for glee,
Then on the beach we take our tea.

When dusk descends upon our camp,
 Then weary from the beach we tramp;
 At ten o'clock the whistle's heard,
 Then off to sleep without a word.

E. MacAlister, Form V.A.

The Joys of Camp.

Now the joys of camp are chiefly these :
 The song of a bird in the neighbouring trees ;

A dreamless sleep 'neath the stars so bright,
 To awake once more in the morning light ;

The thrill that fills you as you lie,
 And watch the sea with sleepy eye :

The call of the brook as it hurries along,
 The busy, chattering breakfast throng ;

The morning dip in the sea so blue,
 A pleasant tramp with a friend who's true :

The rustling wind in the tops of the trees,
 The scorching sands and the cool sea breeze ;

The wholesome meal in the open air,
 The life is ours that's free from care :

The setting sun and the grey twilight,
 The stars, the moon, and the glorious night ;

The evening chant in the camp fire's glow
 As we sing our camp songs soft and low :

The flickering shadows, the cosy tent,
 The lingering thought of a day well spent ;

The final good-nights, the silence deep—
 The peaceful preludes to welcome sleep.

These are the joys of the camper's life,
 All free from stress and care and strife.

N. Richmond, Form V.A.

Cadet Corps.

Officers :—

Captain C. Knight-Coutts, M.C. Captain K. D. Hopkins.

Non-Commissioned Officers :—

Corporals S. Hale, Greenwood, Bill.

Lance-Corporals Sadler, E. Hale, Jackson, H. Jones, Oxborrow.

THE past Summer Term has been most pleasant, and most beneficial of the whole year for all the thirty-five or more boys of the School corps. The programme of the term's activities included not only an excellent field day and an inspection, but the long looked forward to tour of France and the battlefields.

For the first part of the term the cadets were busy rehearsing and training for their part in the forthcoming field day. This took place about mid-term on Clent Hills, and proved a most enjoyable and even exciting experience. The School corps formed part of the attacking force, and proceeded in its various sections separately through Hagley wood to the crest of the hills. The weather was rather unsettled, so that the umpires declared the battle a draw by 4 p.m. The corps, now thoroughly tired out, returned to the School from Clent Church by charabanc, having had a really good time.

At the beginning of July, General Pedley paid a visit to the School to inspect the corps, but unfortunately the senior cadets were unable to attend owing to examinations. Having seen the corps put through its paces and given the cadets a suitable address, the General inspected the buildings and on his departure declared himself satisfied with the smartness and efficiency of the corps in general.

This year for the fifth time the cadets made a tour of the French and Belgian battlefields, and, as in previous years, the County High School sent a number of cadets to join the party. This year 24 of our cadets went to France, and formed No. 1 Platoon of C Company. The leader of the whole Battalion was Col. Danielson, and, thanks to him and all the other officers who were responsible for the tour, it was a tremendous success.

The tour began on Wednesday, August 1st, the train for London from Birmingham leaving New St. Station at 8-25 a.m., and arriving at Tilbury at 12 o'clock. Here we embarked upon the s.s. Lorraine at 12-15 and steamed down the Thames, rather slowly so that we were able to see the busy shipping there.

After an uneventful crossing we arrived at Dunkerque at 6-30 p.m., and after a hearty welcome by the citizens, we retired to the Caserne Sean Bart for a good rest.

Next morning, Thursday, after a prayer service conducted by the chaplain, Canon S. Blofeld, the whole Battalion marched to Malo les Bains, the well known seaside resort, and after lunch all cadets bathed from the sand dunes. Returning to Dunkerque at 7 o'clock, we were allowed to look round Dunkerque until 9-30 p.m.

After rising very early on Friday, we journeyed to Zeebrugge and arrived on the historic "Mole" about 12 a.m. Coming back to Dunkerque we stopped for lunch at Bruges and arrived back at the base at 7 p.m., the evening then being free.

On Saturday we went to Eernigham, getting off the train there very early, and marching to see "Leugenboom" one of the largest guns ever built, having a range of over 50 miles and firing a shell weighing nearly one ton. After this very interesting visit we started for Nieuport about 2 p.m. and arrived there about 4 p.m., and then having viewed the trenches we returned to the Caserne at Dunkerque.

Sunday, August 5th, was a very "slack" day, and after having a church parade, conducted by the chaplain, in the Champ de Manoeuvres, the entire Battalion was free to wander around the town.

The famous Menin Gate and the battered village of Ypres were visited on Monday, the old Cloth Hall, now repaired, proving of special interest, as many of the cadets remembered seeing it in absolute ruins only three years ago. From Ypres we embarked on the peculiar road railway for Kemel Hill, a very important position on the Salient during the War, as Colonel Murray explained to us in a very interesting lecture on the Salient.

Tuesday, the last day of the tour, was spent very quietly; we bathed at Malo in the morning, and in the afternoon we packed up our kit and took a final farewell of the town of Dunkerque.

We boarded the s.s. Lorraine again at 10 p.m. and steamed out of harbour amidst the cheers of the assembled French. Those who were able slept in deck chairs during the crossing, and finally after a good crossing we arrived back at Tiibury at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, August 8th. At 6-30 we took the special train to Birmingham and arrived home about 9-30 a.m.

Blundell (Q.M.S.).

Hale (Cpl.).

The Storm.

The waves are tossing wild and high,
The seagulls home are bent;
From houses can be heard the cry
Of weeping and lament.
For fishers, sailing at the dawn,
Have not returned to show
Their catch of fish, which in the morn
To market ought to go.

But still they're out at sea afar
Toss'd by the raging deep;
Their catch is made, but storm winds bar
From them both rest and sleep.

But when the storm at last does cease,
And stops its deaf'ning roar,
The wives go out to meet in peace
Their husbands at the door.

M. Murrell, Form II.A.

My Pirate's Life.

I'd always longed to sail the seas,
And live a pirate's life;
Full of enjoyment and of ease
And sometimes mixed with strife.

My captain would be like old Flint,
Who sailed the Spanish Main,
And had Long John to give a hint
(He had a better brain).

But now I'm getting old and grey
And totter on two sticks,
I sometimes hear Red Butcher say,
"Get aft, and mind, no tricks!"

But that was in the good old days
When men did walk the plank;
For they did not get any praise
For playing any prank.

I often wish I was with "Red"
Having my pirate's life,
Full of enjoyment and of ease
And sometimes mixed with strife.

Basterfield, Form II.A.

The Wreck.

The wreck it lies buried beneath the waves,
 Buried by shifting sand;
 The hold and cabins are like caves,
 Where dwelt the pirate band.

The spars and masts are all adrift,
 The cannons have all sunk;
 A hammer that you could not lift
 Lies on the captain's bunk.

She had belonged to Pirate Dick,
 A bold man but a brute,
 From whom the crew had many a kick
 When bringing back the loot.

F. Sidaway, Form II.A.

"Snowy."—My Kitten.

A tiny ball of snow is she,
 With eyes both round and blue;
 Her fur is soft as soft can be,
 And loudly does she mew.

Beware before you fondle her,
 Lest her sharp claws you feel,
 As underneath her soft white fur
 Her ready weapons steal.

K. Howell, Form II.A.

Twilight.

Twilight, thou art to me the land of dreams,
 Where fond deluding joys are lost in thought,
 And glimpses of eternal happiness are sought.
 As darkness claims the world her own, and sunbeams
 Fade away, and as the bat unfurls its wing,
 May sober happiness on me descend.
 May I within thy realm my sojourn spend
 In contemplation, sweet and solacing.
 And thou, O Nightingale, let thy notes be such
 As draw down Pluto's cheek iron tears,
 As once did Orpheus, when from his soul he sang.
 May thy happiness o'erflow, that one touch
 May heal another's bitter cup, assuaging fears,
 And robbing sorrow of its awful pang.

L. Cooper, Form III.A.

Night.

The bright stars are twinkling in the dark sky,
The soft winds are blowing their sweet lullaby;
A stillness prevails over all the great earth,
And soon a new day will be given its birth.

The birds are asleep, but the solitary owl
Is just now commencing his midnight prow!;
The rabbits are darting about midst the trees,
And the cry of the night bird is borne on the breeze.

The toddlers are sleeping at home in their beds,
The moonbeams are shining on small curly heads;
The older folk rest from the toil of the day,
To be ready to-morrow to join in the fray.

J. Morris, Form IV.B.

The Four Sisters.

First and fairest of the seasons is the beauteous maiden Spring,
At her will grow grass and daisies, fruit trees start a-blossoming;
She is just a dainty maiden, decked in flowers all bathed in dew,
Tripping lightly o'er the meadows that are clothed with green anew.

When the maiden's days are numbered and her reign is closing fast,
Radiant Summer comes to rule us—"May her reign for ever last!"
She will bring us fruit and flowers of the best that she can give,
Making all the wide creation feel that it is good to live.

Golden haired, with cheeks like roses, Autumn comes to ripen all,
At her side she swings a sickle, as she passes apples fall.
Gilded are the leaves and coloured as an artist's palette gay,
Golden cornfields, laden fruit trees, all await the harvest day.

Then comes hoary headed Winter like a withered, grey, old crone,
And the birds and beasts shrink from her as she stalks about alone;
With her mantle made from snowdrift, and her piercing icy breath,
Wearily she wanders onward, leaving stillness like to death.

J. W. Manton, Form IV.A.

The Seasons.

The bluebells now are opening, the hawthorn is in flower,
And, made as if to match them, comes Spring, fresh from her bower;
Her eyes are blue and twinkling, a smile lights up her face:
The spirit of awakening joy is Spring's delightful grace.

The Spring regretfully entrusts to Summer her demense,
 A stately lady Summer is, majestic as a queen;
 Her robe is bright and glorious, she's decked in colours gay:
 The spirit of a world of flowers is a smiling summer's day.

The Summer soon doth haste away, and Autumn now arrives,
 She is no queen or maiden fair, but one who toils and thrives;
 She gathers in the harvest, and makes the leaves fall down:
 The spirit of oncoming night is Autumn's golden brown.

"I am that night!" cries Winter, an old man, stern and bold,
 "With icy blast and swirling sleet the earth is dark and cold,
 And all men seek their shelter, and firmly close the door;
 I know I am the Season most dreaded of the four."
 D. C. Stevens, Form IV.A.

The Antique Shop.

High on the shelves were pots and pans
 Of pewter, bronze, and gold;
 Candles, snuffers, and warming pans,
 All used in days of old.

And on the counter there arrayed
 Were Dresden dolls so fair,
 Back-scratchers, wigs, and fine brocade,
 And manuscripts so rare.

Both on the floor and round the walls
 Were chains, and chests, and clocks;
 Old tapestries from ancient halls,
 And swords, and guns, and locks.

K. Goodwin, Form IV.R.

The Lullaby.

Two little hands stop playing,
 A little head droops down,
 Whilst mother croons a lullaby
 About the "Baby town."

Two little eyelids flicker,
 Then sink in peaceful sleep,
 And mother, laying down her babe,
 Prepares her watch to keep.

M. Burnett, Form IV.R.

Our Baby.

Eyes like bits of heaven's blue,
Eyes that twinkle up at you,
Milk-white teeth like tiny pearls,
That's our baby.

Crumpled rose-leaf cheeks so bright,
Cheeks that dimple with delight,
Rosy little cherub's mouth,
That's our baby.

Tiny head that nods at you,
Silky hair of golden hue,
Shell-like ears that peep through curls,
That's our baby.

Charming, dainty, bright and gay,
Sunlight on the darkest day,
Queen and tyrant of us all,
Is our baby.

Dorothy Homer, Form V.A.

Autumn.

In the style of "Winter" and "Spring" in "Love's Labour's Lost."

When nuts are ripe and apples, too,
And squirrels swing from tree to tree,
And green leaves change to rusty hue,
And evening mists spread o'er the lea;
When swallows gather for their flight,
Then robin trills his note so light,
Tweet-Tweet!
Twit-Tweet! Twit-Tweet! a pensive sound!
While Farmer Giles doth plough the ground.

When all the corn is gathered in,
And birds have almost ceased to sing,
And foliage is growing thin,
And shortening days their respite bring,
When morning sun is not so bright,
Then robin trills his note so light,
Tweet-Tweet!
Twit-Tweet! Twit-Tweet! a pensive sound!
While Farmer Giles doth plough the ground.

N. K. Murray, Form V.A.

To the "Upper Sixth Science."

Break, Break, Break.

Break, break, break,
 On thy cold white side, O sink!
 And I would that my tongue dare utter
 The words that I really think!

Oh, sad for the chemistry boy,
 Who labours so hard all the day!
 Oh, sad for the smasher of glass;
 For all that he breaks he must pay!

And the broken flasks pass on
 To the waste box down by the wall;
 And all through the touch of a clumsy hand,
 Or the force of an unheeded fall.

Break, break, break,
 At thy foot is the waste box, O sink!
 And the shattered fragments deposited there
 Will never grow less, I think.

Three Fishers.

Three fishers go strolling away to the baths,
 Away to the baths as the sun goes down,
 Each thought of zoology, heedless of maths.,
 With Amphibia watching them, hoping they'll drown;
 For frogs must jump and beetles must creep,
 And they're awkward to catch, but easy to keep,
 So no wonder they start groaning!

Three students sit wielding three murd'rous knives,
 And they sever frogs' legs as the sun goes down;
 They look at their hearts and extinguish their lives,
 Then hammer large nails through them, holding them down.
 But frogs must jump and beetles must creep,
 Though ruthless scalpels pierce them deep,
 So no wonder they keep groaning!

Three corpses lie out in the bio-lab.,
 While the three zoologists stamp and frown,
 For they want some crustacea (the genus of crab),
 And they find that a decent one costs half-a-crown.
 But frogs must jump and beetles must creep,
 Though biologists slay them or put them to sleep,
 And I really don't blame them for groaning!

J. V. Lewis, Form V.I.S.

The Phantom Hand.

THE night was dark, and the wind roared and whistled round the gloomy old forsaken house. The tramp shivered as he looked at it, but even this old place was better than nowhere on this cold night of December. The man was blue with cold as he slunk into the deserted old mansion. When he got inside he pulled a box half-full of matches out of the pocket of his ragged old coat. He struck one, and to his surprise he saw by its feeble light that there was an old couch, and two or three rickety old chairs in the room.

The tramp at once dragged the old couch, and one of the chairs to the warmest corner of the room. He lay down on the couch, wrapping himself in his old overcoat to try and keep warm. Then he drew the chair up to the side of the couch, and placed the box of matches on it, so that they would be within reach if he needed them during the night.

He closed his eyes, and almost immediately fell asleep. He had not slept long when suddenly he was awakened by what he thought was a groan. Thinking it might have come from someone in a similar plight to himself, he called out, "Who's there?" but as nobody answered, he reached out his hand for the matches. He groped about on the chair at the side of the couch, but before he could find them he felt some icy cold fingers place them in his hand.

With a startled cry of fear he leapt off the couch. In a frenzy he lit a match, and started to search the room. He could find nothing, and when he had finished searching, cold beads of perspiration stood out on his forehead. Desperately he struck his last match, and then to his horror, he saw on the wall that he was facing, the shadow of a hand and wrist.

Frantically he rushed to the door, and bounded out into the night. He fled away from the house like a madman, his coat flying behind him in the wind. On and on he rushed, looking not to right or left, his one thought being to put many miles between himself and the place of his horrible encounter. Now there was a bank in front of him, but he ran quickly up it without appearing to notice it; then—Splash! he had fallen headlong into a river at the other side of the bank. He could not swim, but he fought and struggled against the current which was bearing him along. At length he was overcome, and he sank down to a watery grave.

The explanation of the phantom hand has not been discovered to this day.

Joyce Morris, Form IV.B.

An Apostrophe to Spring.

(After style of Bishop Berkeley).

LO! how beautiful are the meadows and sweet scented flowers. How I admire thy handiwork sweet Spring. What a pleasure it is to sit amidst such fragrant flowers! One may even sit and find admiration in the common growth. The warm sun and babbling brook carry my soul even to the gates of Heaven. The lark thrills one with with such delightful music and everything keeps a sweet stillness. Is there not something in this sweet stillness which fills one with a sense of awe and majesty? Is there not something in such beautiful flowers which is infinitely grander than the bubble of human life? Ah! Nature, the sublime mother, forgets not one of her little ones. She sweetly attires them in new garments for the coming year

A. W. Onions, IV.B.

The Joys of Chemistry.

THE scientifically uncultured mind of the highbrow pictures a chemical laboratory as

“—————some uncouth cell,

Where brooding darkness spreads his jealous wings.”

I would, however, respectfully assure any person to whom the scientists Eldorado presents a heathen aspect, as the temple of the Twin Gods of Effluvia—Sulphuretted Hydrogen, and Carbon di-Sulphide—that such is not the case; these are two very minor godlets in the odorous Olympus.

The life of the chemist is beset with little trials, and bears with it that spice of danger, in which, on the authority of the “Boys’ Own Paper” and its kindred, a normal youth revels. Since “the last shall be first” let us now consider the dangers.

There is, for instance, the fate of the ardent research worker, who carries out experiments, with the aid of a beaker and a bunsen burner, in order to discover whether or not benzene burns. Well,—it does!

There is also that system of analysis, not entirely unknown at the County High School, wherein one grinds up various substances until one obtains a mixture the exact colour of the spot one is supposed to be analysing by slightly more orthodox (and

sometimes more effective) methods. The analyst elaborating on the epitome of the above process should go far. In fact, if he includes Potassium Chlorate and Sulphur in the mixture he grinds up, he will go considerably farther in the direction of Heaven than his relatives ever anticipated.

We now turn to "The trials that beset us; the sorrows we endure."

It is, no doubt, rather annoying to find one's solid gold watch slowly blackening in the fumes of Sulphuretted Hydrogen, and the annoyance is by no means alleviated when Jacob Isaacstein, Jeweller ("terms arranged to suit all customers") refuses to refund one's seven and sixpence.

Also to the gentleman who, on one of the rare occasions when Mr. Owin's eagle eye is not focussed upon him, has taken the liberty of borrowing a stick of phosphorous, it must be rather disconcerting to note that the substance has burnt through his pocket and is now performing a similar function on his epidermis.

However, the chemist has his advantages, for imposing arrays of bottles marked "Poison" keep away most non-scientists, while molten brimstone, glowing carbon and the roaring of blow pipe flames all combine to cause those few who do "rush in" to think seriously of the connection between their past lives and the remoter side of the Styx. For a moment they are overawed and dumb; then, shielding their faces from the sight, they flee as if pursued by a myriad fiends.

Thus it may be truly said of chemists that "Angels alone that soar above enjoy such liberty."

J. V. Lewis, Form VI.S.

Old Student's Association.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Old Students' Association for the Session 1927-28 was held at the School on Monday, May 21st, 1928, about 44 members being present. The chair was taken by the President, Mr. J. G. Howarth, M.A.

Mr. G. W. Rose gave a short report of the work of the Association during the Session, and Mr. Richards and Miss York of the football and hockey teams. These reports have, however, already been printed in the May issue of the Magazine.

The following Officers and Committee were elected for the Session 1928-29. :—

President—J. G. HOWARTH, Esq., M.A.,

Vice-Presidents—

T. L. DAVIES, Esq., M.A., B.Sc.	MISS A. MASSEY, B.A.
J. B. RICHARDS, Esq., B.Sc.	MRS. A. C. JEPHCOTT.
H. L. JONES, Esq.	A. C. JEPHCOTT, Esq.
P. W. WARD, Esq.	MISS G. JONES, M.A.

Auditors—MISS A. MASSEY and MR. A. TATTON.

Chairman—MR. G. W. ROSE. *Vice-Chairman*—MR. C. SPALDING.

Hon. Secretary—MISS E. J. ANDERSON.

Assistant Sec.—MR. C. BAGNALL. *Hockey Sec.*—MISS E. YORK.

Treasurer—MR. W. J. PEERS. *Dramatic Secretary*—

Football Secretary—
MR. E. A. RICHARDS. MISS M. J. S. SQUIRES.

Committee—

MR. G. A. HALE.	MISS L. GREEN.
MR. F. SCREEN.	MISS D. M. JONES.
MR. G. LEWIS.	MISS A. E. DOYLE.
MR. R. FARRINGTON.	MISS E. WATSON.

and the Two School Captains.

A few alterations were made in the Rules of the Association, the chief one being Rule No. 1, which was changed from "The name of the Association shall be the Oldbury Secondary and County High School Old Students' Association" to "The name of the Association shall be 'The Cresconians.'"

Rule No. 8 was altered to read as follows :—"The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers, 4 ladies and 4 gentlemen to be elected at the General Meeting, *the two School Captains*, and a representative from the Committees of the sub-sections." This is the first time that any representatives of the present Scholars have been on the Committee of the Old Students' Association, and I am sure they will be of great assistance to all concerned.

E. J. Anderson.

The winter session was opened with a dance, which was attended by approximately one hundred and fifty members and friends. The Headmaster and President of the Association (Mr. J. G. Howarth, M.A.) and Mrs. Howarth were present to welcome all old students, Mrs. Howarth being presented with a bouquet by Miss Barbara Rose, the little daughter of Mr. G. W. Rose, the Chairman of the Society.

Mr. A. C. Jephcott and Mr. G. W. Rose officiated as M.C.'s, and dancing was enjoyed to the strains of Martin Ryan's Orchestra.

Prior to the interval, Miss Marjorie Green, of West Bromwich, very kindly danced a "Ballet Dance" and an "Egyptian Dance," and her very graceful exhibition was greatly appreciated.

During the latter part of the evening Mr. Howarth took the opportunity of addressing the assembly. Mr. Howarth said that he was very pleased to welcome everybody there that night. It was, he added, very gratifying to him to be able to tell them of the excellent progress they were making at the School. He reminded the members that they were the foundation stones of the School, and added that the present scholars were upholding every tradition they had made. He touched briefly on the successes in the recent public examinations, and also mentioned the athletic records which have been set up by the scholars during the past years. In concluding his remarks, Mr. Howarth again expressed his pleasure at seeing such a large gathering of Old Students. He considered that it was very desirable that former students should never lose touch with their old School.

Mr. Howarth was warmly applauded, "For he's a jolly good fellow" being sung with great enthusiasm. Mr. Rose called for three cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Howarth and Mr. Howarth led three rousing cheers for the School.

Dancing continued till shortly after 11-30, when the party dispersed after a very enjoyable evening.

The Committee of the Old Students' Association are to be congratulated upon the very ambitious programme they have prepared for the winter months. A dance has been arranged for October 13th, and an entertainment will be presented by the Dramatic Society early in December.

R. Herbert.

Old Students' Contributions.

We are pleased to publish the following two articles by old students.

J. W. Whitehouse was a student in the School, 1909-1914, obtaining his Oxford Senior Certificate in 1914—then becoming a Student Teacher. In 1915 he enlisted in the R.A.M.C., and after the war studied at Birmingham University, where he obtained a Degree in Arts. Since then he has been teaching, first in Egypt and more recently in Japan.

G. Sumner was in the School, 1921-26, gained Senior Oxford Certificate in 1925 and then was a Student Teacher for a year, coming back to School one day per week during the year 1925-26. She then went to Cheltenham Training College for two years and is now teaching in an Elementary School in Birmingham.

A History and Geography Lesson—
mainly about Japan.

I KNOW it is a queer thing to say, but it is very true—I hate travelling. I only travel because I've got to get somewhere; and I go the shortest way to get there. Travel, to me as to Euclid, is the shortest distance between two points. There is nothing more abhorrent to me than to travel. Yet we do find in most parts of the world people, mainly Americans, who seem to delight in travelling simply for the sake of travel. They wander over the face of the earth without any rest for the sole of their foot; they stop at each place of interest to listen to the misinformation given them by the uniformed uninforming guide; they rush around the place to see the Cathedral, the Town Hall, the statue of the Inventor of Pepsodent, and anything else recommended as being worth seeing; they "grin like a dog and run about the city."

For myself, I prefer a Travel Picture at the Cinema. Travel is too slow in reality. But on a picture, "Through Canada" would be delightful. Pictures of limitless rolling prairies, huge herds of galloping cattle, cowboys with whirling lassos and trousers like balloon tyres, fire the imagination. But to sit all day in an uncomfortable railway carriage and watch the limitless rolling prairies doing nothing else but roll soon gets a little fatiguing—very soon after breakfast one begins to wish it were dinner time so that one could break the monotony a little. "Through the Rocky Mountains" is magnificent, a sight never to be forgotten; but even a day full of looking at snowclad mountains (with never a glimpse of a grizzly bear) gets a little feeding.

Or one could make a very nice Travel Picture of "Travel through Post-War Siberia." We should be able to see it all in twenty minutes. We should be able to get a couple of scenes of the densely wooded shores of the beautiful Lake Baikal with glimpses of the seals and the birds and the bears; then we should be able to skip to the unbelievably immense rivers, the Obi and the Yenesei, dwarfing even almost at their source the full-grown Thames at London. In five minutes we could see our fill of the villages, the contented looking peasants, the splendid, huge, village churches. We should be able to see the people dashing out of the train at all the little stations to buy from the stalls tea, and bread, and butter, and cheese, and roast chicken, and fish, and hard-boiled eggs, and honey to eat on the journey. Then lastly

we should see the huge cities, and then would come the climax of the picture—Moscow with its marvellous palaces, towers, domes, theatres and churches; where every church looks like a madman's dream, an unreal and fantastic adventure in stone, and where the setting sun turns the myriad gilded domes into flames of fire. It would make a splendid picture—especially if a little comic relief were presented by including a few snapshots of actors dressed like the Bolsheviks we read about in the "Daily Mail." That would be fine for a twenty minutes picture, but—in real travel the picture goes on for over a week and then one gets fed up with "Travel Pictures" and wishes they would put a "good comic" on. Travel in reality is a slow-motion picture reduced to absurdity.

Then also travel makes one so dirty. One never reads about this in the travel books—the subject is too paltry to mention, but this fact impresses itself most forcibly on one's mind (and of course, body) when one does really travel. I think I shall have to write a book on "Famous Places I have bathed in." For after a week's slow-motion picture of "The Agriculture and Industries of Siberia" (or Canada) one begins really to feel the necessity of a bath.

And saddest of all, travel brings disillusion. When I used to read my "Peeps at many Lands," I used to conjure up glowing pictures of life in the South Seas, in Egypt or in Japan. They were to me visions of fairyland, "magic casements opening on the foam of perilous seas in fairylands forlorn." Alas, now I find these visions were "sights that never were, on land or sea." One can find that even such an everyday sight as the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris can look very different in imagination from what it really is. For when one reads the novel about Notre Dame, then one's "imagination bodies forth the forms of things unknown" and the appearance in imagination transcends all reality. When one has read the novel, one cannot rest till one has visited the place—and then one finds the church very small and dingy in contrast with the cathedral one's imagination has built.

So, to me, at one time Japan was a Land of Flowers, a land of Feasts of Dolls and Feasts of Lanterns, a land of waving fans and gay costumes, "a land where it was always afternoon," a land where people walked about looking exactly as those

" On screen and fan,
On vase and jar,
They figure in lively paint
In attitudes queer and quaint."

But the reality is SO different. I found there were rich and poor just as in every other country, and that the rich people were just as proud and the poor just as resigned. I found the principal flowers in Japan—the cherry-blossom—only bloomed when the tourists visited Japan and that most of the beautiful, romantic, strange things described at so great length by the learned authoresses of the books on Japan only played a very small part in the lives of the people. Finally my illusions came crashing to the ground when I found that the children in the schools even had to study Nesfield, when they learnt English! There was no mention of schools and certainly none of “Nesfield” in the “Peeps at many lands.” So my advice is—Don’t Travel, buy picture post-cards and you will save your illusions.

So in talking about Japan, I find the most distressing feature is that I have to rob people of their pleasant illusions. I have perhaps already done so with the one about the Flowers of Japan. Japan is a Land of Flowers for about a fortnight in April. Then the cherry trees are loaded with bloom. Everyone’s garden is full of them (in our garden we have about forty trees). Then the whole land is covered as with a pink and white cloud. Each wind creates a pleasant snowstorm of petals. But apart from this there are few flowers. And what do we miss? The wildflowers are few. And we miss the scent. The flowers in Japan have little or none; (there is no “incense breathing morn”). Worse still! The Japanese have little or no sense of smell, and are not disturbed by smells which completely upset our equilibrium.

So I find people have very many different estimates of what Japan is like. I find some confuse the Japanese and the Chinese, though no two nations could be so near geographically and so far apart in character. Of course Japan received during the 7th century after Christ all its civilisation, art, literature and system of writing from China. To-day both nations use the same characters in writing but the languages are utterly different. To illustrate by means of a comparison, the Japanese language is to Chinese, as English is to Latin. Japanese students learn or go through the actions of learning Chinese just as English students learn or go through the actions of learning Latin.

Some people also think that where I live is totally uncivilised or seem amazed when I say that in the little city where I live we have electric lights (although as a matter of fact electricity is used

for lighting even in the most remote villages). My questioners had not thought that we had trains, tramcars, motor-cars, omnibuses, cinemas, radio, or any of the things which they seem to think make life worth living. But the picture which is on this week at Langley Cinema we saw months ago in Matsumoto.

To other people Japan is synonymous with earthquakes. When I say "Japan" they say "earthquakes." Sometimes I wonder if these people think that one can watch the ground continually rippling like the waves of the sea all-day long. You will be able to sympathise with me when I say that Japanese students think of "London" and "fog" in the same way. Some of them seem to think that London is perpetually enveloped in a dense fog.

Some people also beginning with the thesis that "East is East and West is West" pretend that such countries as Japan precisely because they are in the East and we are in the West cannot be understood by Europeans. Of course the Japanese, like every other nation, have peculiar processes of thought, so that to us everything seems reversed in their minds. We might go so far as to say that they seem to do everything the wrong way round. They put their PREpositions after the noun; they have to call them POSTpositions. To call someone they wave their hands as we do when we say goodbye. Japanese carpenters pull a saw or a plane instead of pushing it as ours do. And so on. But on the whole I think it is true to say that while they are so dissimilar in trifles in the deep fundamental things they think and do as we do. Let me take an instance. The large Japanese newspapers have followed the idea of the American and some English newspapers of publishing what is called a "comic strip." The most popular of all these in Japan is "Bringing up Father," the one which relates daily the domestic adventures of Jigg, and Maggie and Dinty Moore, etc. Jiggs and Maggie are better known in Japan than they are in England! I can only understand it by saying that these adventures of Jiggs and his wife must appeal to deep fundamental instincts of human nature! The difference between nations, their national characteristics, have been too greatly emphasised; if we dwell rather on the similarities we shall find that there are after all not many differences, except of complexion, between the various nations of the world.

W. J. Whitehouse.

(To be continued in next issue).

Life in a Residential College.

IT is with a heart full of joy that I look back on my two years spent in Cheltenham College. To record all that happened in that time would require a book of huge dimensions. Of necessity many things must remain unsaid. As I look back over those two years I feel the inadequacy of language to give shape to my impression.

I was one of the fortunate people who lived at the hostel, a large house with three studies, a recreation room, a spacious drawing room, containing everything for our comfort, including a gas fire, and several dormitories. We thought ourselves lucky to live there; we were even glad of the twenty minutes' walk to College, to and from lectures, and we liked the smaller dormitories, too.

Some of the most vivid impressions remaining to me now are of the first few days spent there. It was with a mixture of fear and apprehension that I set out on that first memorable day to my new home to meet 199 unknown girls! In those first days College seemed one long rush to answer bells.

We were awakened each morning at 6-45 a.m. by Rising-bell. After that first week we usually slept through the bell, and some stayed in bed even until 7-20. We purchased a noisy alarm clock in our dorm., but even this had no effect after a short time.

Breakfast bell rang at 7-25 a.m. We had prayers each morning before breakfast in the dining room. For meals we sat at tables of eight. After a fairly substantial breakfast we spent the time until 8-30 making our beds, writing letters, and in various other occupations. At 8-30 the bell rang to warn us that it was time to prepare for lectures, and ten minutes later we started to college for the first lecture. Lectures began each morning at 9 o'clock and finished at 12-50. When we were not having a lecture we spent the time in private study. We had lunch at 1-15 p.m. With the exception of two afternoons, one for criticism lessons, the other for games, we were free to go wherever we wished, and spend out time as we liked until 4-30, when we had tea.

Evening lectures began at 5-30 and lasted until 8 o'clock. At 8-15 we had supper, preceded by prayers, in the dining room. After supper we were free to do what we wished until 9-30, when everyone had to be upstairs. From 9-40 to 10 o'clock there had to be perfect silence throughout the building, and at 10 p.m. all lights were put out.

On Saturdays we were free after lunch until 8 p.m. During the winter we spent most Saturday afternoons at the theatre, in the "gods," better known as the "College box." We were allowed to go to a café for tea on Saturdays, too! On Saturday evenings we usually had socials, or occasionally a fancy-dress dance in the "rec."

On Sundays we went morning and evening to College Chapel, but here I must say that we were not allowed to speak to any men while at College. This was one of the strictest of the rules. During the summer term we were allowed to go and listen to the band in the Winter Gardens, but this was a senior privilege.

We had, in addition to the Saturday socials, several "posh" affairs. The most important of these took place at the College, when all of the lecturers were invited. We often gave dramatic performances, which were a source of great amusement to all. One term in every year each landing at the hostel was responsible for producing a play. These were given in the form of a competition, of which the English lecturers were the judges. The winning dormitories were presented with a book of plays, which was signed by the actors and given to the library.

One week in each year was known as C.U. week. In this week the Juniors would try, in various ways, to get as much money together as possible for the "Student Christian Movement." They would make Seniors' beds for 1d. per morning, clean shoes, wash stockings, poach eggs, and some even fried chipped potatoes and sold them! In addition, each night they gave some form of entertainment, for which the Seniors had to pay 2d. or 3d. In this way an almost incredible amount of money was gained by the end of the week.

On the last night of each term we used to have a "dorm. feed." These were, perhaps, some of the most thrilling experiences of College life. We could borrow any utensils needed from cook, provided we took everything back clean! I remember eating fruit and cream with a teaspoon out of a tumbler, in the dark, too! We were not allowed to have any lights. On the last night of the Christmas term we used to hang up our stockings, and every girl in the dorm. put one article in each of her dorm. mates' stockings. This caused much amusement, for the gifts were usually humorous and appropriate.

Before closing, I should like to mention the College "rags," but as these are traditional I cannot give any details. The best

of these was naturally the "Christening Ceremony," arranged by the Seniors, when the new Juniors, on their second evening in College, were given their nick-names, these usually being obtained from their surnames. It seems such a short time since I was taking part in that ceremony, but all my regrets on leaving College are lessened by the knowledge that I have left with my life infinitely enriched by the all too short a time spent there.

G. Sumner.

Old Students' Successes.

WE offer congratulations to the following old students who have been successful in examinations at the University of Birmingham:—

E. J. CHAMBERS	...	B.Sc. Physics. 1st Class Honours.
E. C. ATKINS	... ..	} B.Sc. Chemistry. 2nd Class Honours.
H. T. CHAMBERLAIN	... ..
S. J. HOTCHKISS	... ..
H. A. CLARKE	... ..	B.Sc. Zoology. 3rd Class Honours.
G. I. JONES	... ..	B.Sc. (to be conferred after a further year's Study).
E. H. CHORLEY	... ..	B.A.
R. H. SWAIN	... ..	B.A.
K. BROWN	... ..	} Second Examination in School of Mathematics.
A. G. NOCK	... ..
E. P. ICKE	... ..	Pure Maths. II. Applied Maths. II. Physics II.. German.
J. L. JONES	... ..	Physics III. Physics II.
E. JOHNSTONE	... ..	First Examination (German).
C. GREENWOOD	... ..	First Examination (History).
C. R. WOODWARD	... ..	Intermediate Examination (Arts).
A. E. HOLLIS	... ..	} Diploma in Education.
D. TAYLOR	... ..
G. A. BETTS	... ..
		Fourth Examination for M.B. (Forensic Medicine and Toxicology and Hygiene and Public Health).
F. G. LEWIS	Third Examination for M.B.

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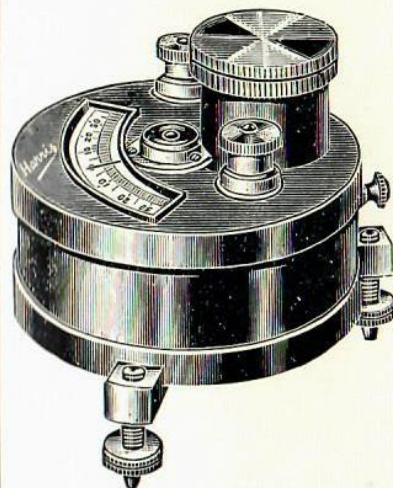
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