



**THE
OLDBURIAN**

OLDBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
MAGAZINE

1959

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Vol. IV. No. 13.

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C. C. HOWARD, B.A., B.Sc., Ph.D. (*Headmaster*)

J. B. RICHARDS, M.A., B.Sc. (*Deputy Headmaster*)

MRS. M. JONES, B.Sc. (*Senior Mistress*)

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T. B. HETHERINGTON, B.A.	MISS V. I. SIRMON, D.S.Dip.
J. G. BARBOUR, M.A.	MISS M. SANDERS
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I. T. DAVIES, B.Sc.	
A. R. SANT, B.Sc.	
K. V. FARMER.	

SCHOOL NOTES

THE pages of this issue will show once again that all lines of activity in our School have been well maintained, and that, in some directions there has been marked progress.

Attention must however first be directed to the tribute to Miss S. A. G. Jones, who for thirty-six years gave her services wholeheartedly and single-mindedly to the School. Her passing on October 12th, 1959, after only two years in retirement, brought sorrow to all who had known her.

There are staff changes to record. Those who have left during the year include Miss L. A. Bullen, D.S.Dip., Mrs. S. M. Piercy, B.A., Miss N. G. Price, B.A., Mr. R. J. Clarke, B.Sc., Mr. J. C. Dickens, B.Sc., and a part-time teacher, Mrs. M. Warwick, P.C.T. To all of them we express thanks for their work in the School and our best wishes for the future. Miss Bullen, after four years in charge of our Domestic Science Department, has gone to Waverley Grammar School to take charge of a somewhat larger department. Mrs. Piercy, after a short period of service with us, left to undertake the responsibilities of her home; Miss Price has moved to Carlisle and County High School for Girls; Mr. Clarke has taken a post as Lecturer in Mathematics in the Birmingham College of Technology; Mr. Dickens is now Head of the Science Department at Churchfield Comprehensive School, West Bromich; while Mrs. Warwick has been appointed to the staff of the Oldbury Secondary Technical School. New members of the staff are Miss R. B. Knight, B.A., Miss V. I. Sirmon, D.S.Dip., Miss S. M. D. Walton, B.A., Mr. I. T. Davies, B.Sc., and Mr. A. R. Sant, B.Sc. We wish all of them happiness and success in their life with us here. Their appointments have made our staffing position very good. At a time when many schools are suffering seriously by reason of the shortage in the supply of teachers, we have been fortunate. We have lost good teachers, but we have replaced them by other good teachers. We are also very pleased that Mlle. Chatin, our conversational assistant from France has remained with us for a second year, in preference to taking a post in a French school. We hope that our good fortune as regards the teaching staff will continue.

Among material developments, three may well be specially mentioned, they being due mainly to our internal efforts; the laying down of a hard cricket pitch, the provision of a stage for dramatics and the erection of a brick building as a store for dramatics properties. The hard cricket pitch will enable our boys to have better and more regular cricket practice, and will make

the cancellation of matches less frequent. The new stage will give scope for great improvements in the presentation of school plays, and the excellent building erected for preparatory work on stage materials and for storage of properties will still further facilitate the work of all concerned. It is to the credit of many in the School, staff and pupils, that these have all been obtained by self-help, the necessary large sums of money having been raised internally. Credit is particularly due to Miss S. A. G. Jones for her magnificent work in the past, and to many others, who, more recently, have taken interest and helped to swell the funds, from which these amenities have now been provided.

Another great improvement, still more important, is now in hand, this having been undertaken by the Local Education Authority. It is the provision of an additional science block, to include four more laboratories, an extra classroom, store rooms and clockrooms. We are most grateful to the Governors, who so readily gave support to the suggestion put forward that this extension should be provided. It is hoped that the building will be in course of erection early in 1960. The additional space to be provided will enable us to extend our work in the Sciences, so essential in these days.

It is encouraging to know that still further future developments of the School are being favourably considered by the Board of Governors and other committees of the Local Education Authority. The School motto, "Cresco", has been true in the past, still has real practical significance today, and evidently will have also in the future. It is our hope and belief that all the material evidence of development referred to is but an outward indication of progress in the intangible things of life, which matter most of all, both for our School as a whole and for ourselves as individuals, who reap so much benefit from our vigorous and happy life together in our school community.

C.C.H.

MISS S. A. G. JONES.

An appreciation.

MISS S. A. G. Jones, M.A., was a member of the staff of Oldbury Grammar School for thirty-six years, during which time she rendered inestimable services in many different ways. She joined the staff in 1921, served under two headmasters until 1957, and passed away on October 12th, 1959, after two years in retirement. Her devotion to the School was unlimited; she was wholly absorbed in its interests; she gave herself completely to its service. Her activities were manifold, including at various times responsibility for the English Department, the Latin Department, the School Library, the Joint Societies, the School magazine, the annual school play, school excursions, charitable efforts made on behalf of the School, and, during her last years with us, responsibility also as Senior Mistress.

Miss Jones came to the School with excellent qualifications and experience already to her credit. She had gained the Degree of B.A. of Birmingham University, in English and Latin, and later had been awarded the Degree of M.A. Her qualifications also included the Diploma in Education of Birmingham University and, as a most useful addition, the Social Study Diploma, also of Birmingham University. Her experience before joining our School included five years of teaching at Wright's Lane School, Old Hill, with which she combined considerable experience in the work of the Unemployment Centre in Summer Lane, Birmingham. She thus had both pedagogic and philanthropic interests, and her experience had included both teaching and social service. This combination was much in evidence throughout her life in our School.

In all her teaching, whether in English or Latin, Miss Jones was most successful, the excellence of her work being recognised by all, from the pupils who were fortunate to be in her classes to the Inspectors from the Ministry of Education who saw what she was doing. She was an inspiration to those she taught, many of whom owe much of their later successes to her ability as a teacher and to her infectious enthusiasm.

Miss Jones was tireless in her activities, so that, apart from class teaching, out-of-school activities were always high among her concerns. Whatever was afoot for the general good, Miss Jones would be there making a valuable contribution. Her initiative was displayed in her work as our first School Librarian, much in our beautiful library being due to her careful thought

and planning. She was behind those producing the school magazine, always ready with helpful advice and encouragement. Her stage productions were always of a high standard, and the interest in dramatics kindled by her in the School has spread, through former students, to many other organisations. She organised many holidays abroad and innumerable outings in this country. With bands of helpers during the years of war she raised colossal sums for wartime charities; many will remember the great sales of work produced by pupils under her direction. Her care for girls while she was Senior Mistress will never be forgotten by those who benefited from her kindness.

Miss Jones lived for others, never sparing herself, even when she should have done. No-one will ever know how much our pupils owe to her for their progress and happiness. Miss Jones was one of the finest of teachers and will always be remembered with affection, admiration and thankfulness by all who knew her and so benefited by contact with her wonderful personality.

C.C.H.

SPEECH DAY 1959

Chairman: ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C.
(Chairman of the Governors)

The School Song

Chairman's Remarks

Girl Captain's Report VERONICA KINGSNORTH

Boy Captain's Report S. R. HAINE

Instrumental Item: "Allegro from Sonata in D Major" (K144)
(Mozart) S. R. HAINE, J. N. GOSLING, JUDITH BAGLEY

The Headmaster's Report

Speech and Presentation of Prizes by

PROFESSOR J. SAYERS, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Cantab.)
(Professor of Electron Physics at Birmingham University)

Professor Sayers's Speech

Professor Sayers drew attention to the remarkable fact of scientific discovery in the modern world.

"In no field," he said, "is development more rapid at present than in space research and exploration. Indeed this is a somewhat controversial topic. Some people regard it as a most exciting and rewarding scientific research; others see it as a futile waste of good brains and resources which could be better employed; some find in it a challenge to our national prestige. We have the question asked, as so often in the past, 'What is the use of this?'"

He gave illustrations to show that the lesson of the past is that it is unreasonable to expect the Scientist of the day to predict the uses to which his discoveries may be put in the future.

"I am sure," he continued, "that the next ten or twenty years will see some surprising answers to the question: 'Of what use is space research?' As for me, I see it against the background of international discord. The nations of the world, jostling about in limited space, have been trampling heavily on each other's toes. Space research, by providing a new and challenging objective, outside the limits of the earth, may give us a common goal to which all may strive in some unity of purpose. Competitors in a race seldom find the time to stop and quarrel.

“Some pupils here may be inclined to imagine that with the present rapid rate of progress there will be little left to discover by the time they have gained sufficient knowledge to take part. Let me end by quoting you words written by Isaac Newton more than 200 years ago, when it appeared to some that there was little left to discover:

“ ‘I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, while the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me!’ ”

J.G.B.

Vote of Thanks

Proposer: HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF OLDBURY
(Councillor Mrs. E. M. J. Gunn, J.P., C.C.)

AWARDS 1959.

Form Prizes for General Proficiency

Form 1C	Lynette Postins K. R. Minchin.	Form 3C	Gillian F. Smith P. R. Webb
Form 1B	Pauline F. Beighton. Kathleen M. Goode	Form 3B	I. J. Parker Patricia Hawkins
Form 1A	Christine V. Richards M. J. Billington	Form 3A	Roberta D. Beardmore Marjorie A. Weston
Form 2C	D. B. Clarke Barbara Fitch	Form 4C	A. Lane Sandra A. Buckley
Form 2B	B. A. Roberts Pamela L. Moss	Form 4B	A. H. Yates Linda A. Turner
Form 2A	Joan H. Plimley D. Griffin	Form 4A	Marion B. Jones Josephine A. Layton

General Certificates of Education at Ordinary Level

I. P. Ashwood	B. Cole	P. M. Dale
D. A. Coles	T. A. Hadley	D. Lloyd
L. G. V. Coulthard	A. W. Harris	M. L. Oakes
T. Daniels.	J. Hollyhead	T. Parsonage
M. J. Freeman	G. B. J. Hughes	R. M. Parsons
J. N. Gosling	B. Hunt	R. A. Pickering
R. F. Mallard	J. M. Hyde	K. Wellings
G. H. Neale	R. D. N. Lester	Christine Andrews
C. J. Parkes	D. J. Neale	Elizabeth Blair
M. J. Prestidge	G. T. Newell	Josephine Brookes
R. F. Smith	K. C. Page	Sylvia M. Brown
D. R. Stephens	R. Palfrey	Margaret E. Comley
P. Stone	G. D. Robertson	Mary R. Connelly
R. Townsend	J. I. Round	Patricia R. Evans
J. J. Upton	P. R. Sabin	Joyce K. Fletcher
M. G. Woodward	R. A. Stevens	Janet M. Gough
Margaret Barratt	D. Turton	Jill Y. Lees
Valerie A. Beardmore	D. B. Whyman	Sandra Monk
Sylvia M. Bradshaw	Irene A. Abell	Pauline Parker
Sheila L. Cooke	Gillian M. Baker	Susan J. Phipps
Eileen Cross	Susan J. Bates	Jacqueline Shipstone
Susan Cutter	Pamela A. Brian	Jean V. Thurman
Catherine M. Edmonds	Christine A. Cotterill	Patricia A. Watkins
Gillian M. Gould	W. Janet Guest	M. Biddlestone
Patricia A. Hadley	Christine Haines	J. E. Campbell
Mavis Hamblett	Marjorie F. Holden	G. J. Ellis
Joan M. Haynes	Joan B. Mitchell	R. H. Fox
Janet Hope	Josephine P. Northall	P. Johnson
Mary Hughes	Josephine Perry	R. N. Jones
Carol W. Jones	Sandra Richards	R. Smallwood
Christine A. Mallard	Shirley A. Snelus	Janice A. Bagnall
Janet B. Picken	Margaret J. Stanaway	Kathleen A. Hateley
Nina E. Rogers	Margaret R. Warwick	Rosemary Kenwick
Jennifer M. Turner	Brenda Whale	Luned M. Morris
Patricia A. Webb	J. Aston	Patricia D. Norville
D. M. Bolton	P. R. Cartland	D. Matthews

General Certificates of Education at Advanced Level

G. T. Brown	A. J. Newey	M. Ann Murray
J. D. Clements	D. C. Owen	Nora C. Reynolds
G. R. Davies	H. W. Robertson	F. Ann Russell
C. H. Glover	O. Tudor	Sylvia Street
S. R. Haine	A. G. Webster	Margaret D. Taylor
D. E. G. Hathaway	Rosalind A. Beard	Carole A. Watton
D. Matthews	Christine Gregory	Dorothy Westwood

Special Awards

O.S.A. Prize for Best Academic Achievement	...	Nora C. Reynolds
Frank Dawes' Prize for Leadership	D. Matthews
Lydia Dawes' Prize for Leadership	Nora C. Reynolds
Best General Certificate of Education—Girls	Jennifer M. Turner
Best General Certificate of Education—Boys	T. Daniels
Pearson Memorial Prize for English	Rosalind A. Beard

University Scholarships and Awards

Worcestershire County	Rosalind A. Beard
		J. D. Clements
		J. E. Gibbons
		Diana T. Holtom
		Elaine Jones
		H. Lane
		D. Matthews
		A. J. Newey
		D. C. Owen
		J. A. Russell
		O. Tudor
		Irene Walker
		Carole A. Watton
City of Birmingham	G. T. Brown
		D. E. Hathaway
County Borough of Smethwick	M. Ann Murray
		Margaret D. Taylor
Oldbury Educational Trust (1958/59)	G. M. Lago
(1959/60)	To be announced

Prizes for the Best Use of Leisure

Prizes awarded by the late Mr. A. P. Hands	...	S. R. Haine
		A. Pardoe
Prizes awarded by Mrs. C. T. Barlow	Angela Downs
		Luned Morris
Prizes awarded by the late Mr. C. T. Barlow	Judith Rollason
		Marion Jones
Certificates of Merit in Leisure Time Activities	62

Awards for Games, Athletics, Swimming, etc.

Girl Guides' Prize	Christine Gregory
Games Prizes	J. Aston
		D. Matthews
		Joyce K. Fletcher
		Patricia A. Webb

Boys' Athletic Champion, awarded Vernon Cup	...	K. C. Page and M. E. Pinson
Girls' Athletic Champion, awarded Albright Cup	...	Christine Gregory
Parents' Cricket Match	The School
Oldbury and Langley District Guide Swimming Shield.		
Oldbury and Langley District Guide Athletics Shield.		

House Cups

The Howarth Cup for Inter-School Games	KING'S HOUSE
The Jephcott Cup for Athletics	QUEEN'S HOUSE
Swimming Cup	SCHOOL HOUSE
The Beard Cup for National Savings	QUEEN'S HOUSE
The Davies Cup for Music	SCHOOL HOUSE
The Davies Cup for Junior and Middle School Studies.		TRINITY HOUSE
The Hadley Cup for Academic Achievement of Seniors.		QUEEN'S HOUSE

Some Old Scholars at Universities and Colleges, 1959

Cambridge University

Queen's College

R. Kitchen

B.A., Natural Sciences Tripos, Part II, Class III.

Selwyn College

G. Brindley,

F.R.C.O., A.R.C.M.

B.A., Music Tripos, Part II, Class III.

Birmingham University

Faculty of Medicine

S. H. Taylor, B.Sc.

Appointed Lecturer in Medicine.

M.B., Ch.B.,

L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

D. M. Chaplin

Completed fourth year of course for M.B., Ch.B.

School of Dentistry

G. Walker

L.D.S., R.C.S., B.D.S.

W. J. M. Barrie

Passed 2nd B.D.S., Parts 1 and 2.

Faculty of Science

J. B. Taylor, B.Sc.,

Awarded a Harkness Fellowship tenable in U.S.A.

Ph.D.

M. P. Osborne, B.Sc.

Research work.

R. M. Edge, B.Sc.

Research work for Ph.D.

A. P. Bennett, B.Sc.

Research in Nuclear Physics for Ph.D.

A. F. Price

B.Sc. Hons. Class II(i), Chemical Engineering.

B. Bailey

Completed second year of course in Chemical Engineering.

D. Edge

Completed second year of course in Chemical Engineering.

G. H. Eaton

Completed second year of course in Honours School of Physics.

T. W. Eaton

Completed second year of course in Honours School of Physics.

D. Morrall

Completed second year of course in Engineering.

D. F. J. Dagley

Completed first year of course in Honours School of Mathematics.

F. Darby

Completed first year of course in Honours School of Geology.

J. F. Richards

Complete first year of course in Civil Engineering.

J. S. Smith

Completed first year of course in Chemical Engineering.

Faculty of Social Science

Jean Whitehouse

B.Soc.Sc., Honours, IIB.

- Faculty of Arts*
 Joy V. Howard, B.Mus. Awarded Post-Graduate Certificate in Education.
 Ann Elsdon B.A., General Subjects.
 G. K. Withington B.A. Honours, Theology.
 Jean McLelland Completed first year of course in Honours School of French.
 K. W. Field Completed first year of course in Physical Education.
- Faculty of Law*
 R. F. Bayliss LL.B., Honours, Class III.
- Bristol University**
 D. A. Westwood Completed second year of course in Accountancy.
 I. P. Smith Completed second year of course in Engineering.
- Leeds University**
 Mavis D. Letts B.A., Honours, Class III. Geography.
- Liverpool University**
 Sylvia Fletcher Completed first year of course in Honours School of History.
 Joan Maneylaws Completed first year of course in General Studies.
- London University**
University College
 M. D. Spooner B.Sc., Honours, Class I. Chemical Engineering.
- Manchester University**
 Kathleen Hadley B.A., Administration.
 M. T. Wyld B.Sc., Class II(ii). Mathematics.
- Sheffield University**
 A. J. Benbow B.Sc., Class II(i). Honours, Zoology.
 M. J. Wharton Completed first year of course in Honours School of Physics.
- School of Dentistry*
 R. M. Savage Completed fourth year of course for L.D.S.
 K. W. Parkes Completed fourth year of course for L.D.S.
 F. Matthews Passed second L.D.S. Part 1.
- Southampton University**
 R. T. Hancox B.Sc., Special Honours, II(i). Chemistry.
- Edinburgh University**
 J. S. Jennings, B.Sc. Completed first year of research in Geology, holding a Shell Research Scholarship.
 Sarah Martin Completed second year of course in Geography.
- Training Colleges**
- City of Birmingham*
 Marion Price Completed two year course for Teacher's Certificate.
 Judith Rose Completed first year of course.
- Dudley*
 D. C. Handy Completed first year of course.
 Vyvian M. Welch Completed first year of course.
- Leeds*
 Sandra Davies Completed two year course for Teacher's Certificate.
 Sheila Smith Completed two year course for Teacher's Certificate.
- Loughborough*
 A. T. Harrold Completed first year of course in Physical Education.
- Saltley*
 P. Hipkiss Completed first year of course.
 W. Sandells Completed first year of course.
- Worcester*
 Ann Marshall Completed two year course for Teacher's Certificate.

- M. Ann Huxley Completed first year of course.
Battersea College of Domestic Science
 Olwen Llewellyn Completed second year of course.
Dartford Physical Training College
 Pamela Rowe Completed first year of course.
- Battersea College of Technology**
 D. W. D. Slim Completed first year of course in Honours School of Mathematics.
- Birmingham College of Technology**
 Ann Darlington Completed third year of course in Institutional Management.
 Gillian Smith Completed third year of course in Institutional Management.
 Ann V. Ward Completed third year of course in Institutional Management.
 D. A. Wood Passed Higher National Certificate and Part I G.R.I.C.
 F. K. Sandell Completed first year of course for Dip. Tech. (Mathematics).
 T. E. Poritt Completed mathematics course for London B.Sc. Special in Physics.
- Aston Technical College**
 H. J. T. Cotton Passed Ordinary National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering.
 R. J. Lee Passed Ordinary National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering.
- College of Arts and Crafts**
 G. B. Moore Diploma in Architecture.
 G. M. Lago Completed first year of National Diploma course in Design.
- Stourbridge College of Art**
 Brenda Harrold Completed first year of course.
- Harper Adams Agricultural College**
 K. E. Comley Completed second year of course for Agricultural Diploma.
- Nursing**
 Catherine Grieve S.R.N. London.

JOINT SOCIETIES**SESSION 1958-59**

President: DR. C. C. HOWARD.

Vice-Presidents: MEMBERS OF STAFF.

Chairman: S. R. HAINE.

Secretary: CHRISTINE GREGORY.

September 25th.—The president of the society opened the session by welcoming new members and installing S. R. Haine as chairman, A. Newey as vice-chairman and Christine Gregory as secretary. The meeting continued in the form of a knock-out argument between various members of the fifth and sixth forms, Pardoe eventually defeating Ann Murray in a final argument. A vote of thanks was proposed by Chloë Daniels and seconded by D. Owen.

October 2nd—Members of the party of girls that went to Italy at Easter told us about their holiday. Luned Morris described their outward journey through France and Switzerland, Judith Bagley contrasted it with the journey through Italy to their destination, Bellagio, on Lake Como, Luned told us of some excursions and Angela Downs described the homeward journey. These talks were illustrated by Miss Firth's excellent colour-slides. A vote of thanks was proposed by Pamela Bradley and seconded by A. Webster.

October 9th—The meeting took the form of a series of talks by fifth and sixth form boys about their Easter holiday in Spain. After giving us a brief introduction, D. Owen described their journey through Dover, Dunkirk, Poitiers to their destination Zumaya. D. Beck and C. Glover described some colour slides shown by Mr. Swain, including some of a bull-fight which brought colour and excitement into our meeting. A vote of thanks was proposed by Diana Holtom and seconded by R. Broadbent.

October 16th—D. Matthews, helped by Mr. Jones, introduced two excellent colour-films concerning important recent discoveries in chemistry. The first film, showing the discovering and production of a new dye called 'monastral blue,' was called 'The Discovery of a New Pigment'. The second one, called 'A Point of New Departure', concerned the production of Terylene. A vote of thanks was proposed by Dorothy Westwood and seconded by A. Pardoe.

November 6th—Members of the Cresconians' Dramatic section paid us a visit, giving us a brief excerpt from one of the three one-act plays they are performing this season. Their producer, Mr. H. Moss, introduced the excerpt, telling us of the fun to be obtained from amateur dramatics, and later he criticised the excerpt, also asking for the opinions of the audience. A vote of thanks was proposed by Hazel Mansell and seconded by M. Biddlestone.

November 13th—The Society had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. K. Mallin and his wife, both old pupils of the school, who had been living in Northern Rhodesia for several years. Mr. Mallin showed us two films he had taken himself of Kitwe where he had been living. He also showed us a film of some wild animal life to be found in Rhodesia and finally a film of Victoria falls and the surrounding countryside. A vote of thanks was proposed by I. Templeton and seconded by Patricia Norville.

November 20th—This year Physics Night was entitled 'Any Questions.' Various members of the sixth form physics group answered questions previously handed to them by members of the society. Dorothy Westwood and G. Brown answered the question 'How are X-rays produced and what are their effects on living matter?' J. Hollyoake and I. Templeton told us what sun-spots were and the way they influenced radio communications on earth, and G. Davies explained the uses of the copper/copper-oxide photoelectric cell. A vote of thanks was proposed by Margaret Taylor and seconded by R. Macdonald-Gibson.

November 27th—The Gramophone Society presented a series of sketches on a day in the life of a school boy. The records played, accounting for differing tastes, varied from 'It's nicer to be in bed' by Sir Harry Lauder and 'All through the night' by Harry Secombe to 'The 1812 Overture' by Tchaikowsky and 'The Lost Chord' by Sullivan. The programme was most efficiently arranged and presented by Luned Morris. A vote of thanks was proposed by Carole Watton and seconded by D. Beck.

January 22nd—The Society had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. G. A. Webster, the staff-tutor in Archæology of the department of extra-mural studies of Birmingham University. His

talk was entitled 'The application of scientific techniques to archæological problems.' He explained to the society several methods of dating specimens. The second part of Mr. Webster's talk concerned methods of prospecting and he concluded by showing some interesting slides of views of known sites from aircraft. A vote of thanks was proposed by D. Matthews and seconded by Nora Reynolds.

February 12th—Members of the sixth form biology group provided the evening's entertainment. O. Tudor commenced with his topic-industrial melanism, explaining how a darker species of moth thrives in industrial areas. Hazel Mansell and Dorothy Westwood gave us an illustrated talk on cacti and their upkeep and finally J. Campbell told us of a holiday spent bird-watching on the island of Skokolm and Skomer. A vote of thanks was proposed by R. Daley and seconded by Barbara Martin.

February 19th—The Rev. G. E. Hubbard, the curate of a local church, entertained us by telling us of some of his experiences in India where he had an architectural practice and where he formed a school after he had become a clergyman. A vote of thanks was proposed by R. Payne and seconded by Christine Lewis.

February 26th—For the French night members of 6B French group presented to us "Visite à Paris." We heard a short story in French told by Christine Mallard, then Janice Bagnall and Pamela Bradley introduced the colour film and Curigwyn Dittrich and Veronica Kingsnorth described more fully some of the places of interest. A. Lacon proposed a vote of thanks which was seconded by Judith Bagley.

March 5th—The Society had the pleasure of a visit from Mrs. G. I. Pardoe, head of the science department of a local comprehensive school, who gave us a talk entitled 'New Wonder Drugs.' Rosemary Kenwrick proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Pardoe, which was seconded by L. Coulthard.

The session again terminated with a most enjoyable dance at which the school dance orchestra played so well.

Christine Gregory, 6A.

MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

ON looking back over the past year, a number of outstanding musical events are brought to mind.

The orchestra and choirs practised regularly throughout the year in order to provide two successful and enjoyable concerts, held on two successive evenings at the end of the Autumn term. The Orchestra played Haydn's Allegro from the Second Symphony and Andante from Symphony No. 73, and also accompanied the Large Choir. Songs were rendered by the Four Part Choir and the Girls' Choir, an item of special interest being "The Snow," by Elgar, with an accompaniment for two violins. Solos by Mr. Farmer, violin; Mr. Sutton, 'cello; Mr. Jones, organ; and P. Sabin, organ, were much appreciated, as also was a performance of Telemann's Sonata in B flat for three violins, 'cello and pianoforte. The traditional finale, although not officially included in the programme, somehow found its way into the second concert, and the singing of 'Good King Wenceslas' had to be heard to be believed.

The second concert, in May, was given for the blind people of Oldbury, Halesowen and Worcester. Here the choirs made a special effort to hold the interest of their blind audience. The second half of the programme was devoted to solo items by Mrs. Tabbush, Mr. Farmer, Mr. Sutton and Mr. Jones and the performance of Telemann's Concerto for Four violins. This was also played at the Oldbury Schools Festival of Music, held in the same month.

The Gramophone Society continued to meet during Friday lunch hours, providing many enjoyable programmes under the guidance of Mr. Richards and Mr. Laycock. A most amusing evening was provided at Joint Societies when the theme was "A Day in the Life of a Schoolboy."

It is pleasing to note that an interest in music extends beyond school activities: six of our orchestral players are now members of the Worcestershire County Youth Orchestra, attending practices regularly and playing in the concerts at Kidderminster Town Hall, while three more pupils have started in the second orchestra, recently formed due to the rapid growth of the first orchestra.

As usual, individual members of the school were able to attend concerts in Birmingham during the year, but it was a great pleasure to have the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra visiting us once more in the autumn term. Mr. Harold Gray conducted the orchestra in a most enjoyable concert, giving helpful comments and explanations between the items.

Thus, music has played an important part in yet another school year, thanks to the countless people who give so much of their time to make these activities possible.

Angela Downs 6A.

THE ORCHESTRA

A THOUSAND muffled footsteps! Lo! the curious overture
 Pulsates, and strange bewitchment in its tones
 Insidiously steals across the brain.
 A human soul is agonised with hurt that needs no cure,
 Excruciating joy that rapture owns
 Increases with crescendoes in each strain.

'Tis changed! the leaping, licking tongues of fire that made
 ascent,
 Extinguished are with water's rippling balm,
 And fragrant breeze by Ariel gently blown.
 O silvered notes! with thou my drink I would in mirth repent;
 Cast in my lot with Charon, if thy calm
 Would bless my night with Neptune's watery throne.

Sped on again! How feeble are my iron bolts!
 Now horses' hoofs pound fierce the earth's hot face,
 And make the throbbing air reverberate
 With faster, urgent rhythm, 'till the last wild colts
 Are tamed. Play on!—No more! and my solace—
 An echo dead on which to meditate.

Judith Tranter, 5G.

THE NIGHTINGALE

ON the evening of March 11th, 1959, in the school hall, an expectant audience awaited the strains of "God save the Queen" which would signify that the new school play, 'The Nightingale,' a tale of Old China, was about to begin. Upon entering the lobby, each member of the "honourable audience" was ushered into his or her seat by girls from the sixth form who were selling programmes and who were almost unrecognizable in Chinese costume, complete with coolie hats and almond eyes. They all looked very attractive and the programmes themselves provided adequate entertainment before the lights went down and the play began. 'The Nightingale' is an adaption by Dorothy Wright of the famous fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. In contrast to last year's play, 'Cæsar's Friend,' the actors were not charged with heavy dramatic roles but were given the opportunity to play their parts with vitality and whimsical humour.

The story begins with the Emperor, most excellently played by Alan Pardoe, commanding a search to be made for the nightingale with the enchanting voice. The circle of false professional courtiers, only seeking for advancement, endeavours to find this

curiosity, but it is Small Flower , a simple kitchen maid, touchingly played by Linda Charles, who, already knowing the whereabouts of the bird, reluctantly takes it to the palace. One day the Emperor of Japan sends a mechanical singing bird to the Emperor and it replaces the nightingale, who flies away disappointed. Eventually the mechanical bird breaks down and the Emperor, realising his error, mourns the loss of the real bird. After many adventures the nightingale is restored to the Imperial Palace, saving the life of the Emperor, who lies dying.

Thus this 'once-upon-a-time' story ends in the traditional manner; for everyone, with the exception of the courtiers, lives happily ever after.

The scenes of the play were very humorously linked by the commère, competently played by Luned Morris, and two comical property men, Peter Downing and John Trickett. Lord Poy, played by Dudley Hathaway, interpreted his part with great feeling and sensitivity.

The settings and costumes were a delight to the eye and the incidental music from Stravinsky's 'Le Rossignol' was admirably chosen and a delight to the ear. The play ran very smoothly and was ably produced by Mr. H. Laycock. Congratulations to cast, producer and all concerned !

Janice Bagnall and Veronica Kingsnorth, 6A.

THE SCHOOL PLAY

HEARTS were beating; pulses pounded.
Anxious eye met anxious look.

The Producer's voice resounded,
As the cast their places took.
Costumes fitted; lighting tested;
Electricians standing-by.

With the cast success now rested,
As the zero hour drew nigh.
On the stage, the tension mounted,
With each fleeting moment's sigh.
Frowning eyes the seconds counted,
As they speedily slipped by.
All was hushed as houselights faded,
And sweet music's soft refrain
Now the waiting hour invaded,
Freeing its melodious strain.

All their efforts now united
All their hearts pursued one aim.
An object, from which, once excited
Grows an everlasting flame.

Irene A. Abell, 6B.

STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

I FEEL sure that for most members the highlight of this year in S.C.M. was the Sixth Form Conference at Stourbridge last March. "The Church in our changing society" was the subject of an excellent talk given in the morning by Prebendary Linsley of Kidderminster. We all went into discussion groups after it and then returned to hear him answer some of our questions. The same pattern of procedure was followed after lunch when another stimulating talk on 'The Church and Race relations' was given by the Rev. J. J. Whitfield, a Methodist minister who works among the coloured people of Birmingham. Although we were all very sorry to have missed a day from school we felt it had been most profitably spent at Stourbridge!

Our usual Friday evening meetings have included many lively discussions (always a popular feature of our S.C.M.) and several Brains Trusts. We also invited speakers from different denominations to talk to us.

Perhaps the key words to express our meetings these days are fun, fellowship and instruction. Our lively Friday evenings are a wonderful way to end a long week at school!

Thank-you Miss Sendell, Miss Walton and Mr. Barbour for your patient and indulgent supervision and valuable encouragement.

Veronica Kingsnorth, 6A.

AN IMPRESSION.

Early Morning in King's College Chapel, Cambridge.

THE Chapel is empty. All is blissfully still. The shrill whistling of a small bird rebounds faintly among the great perpendicular vaults and dies away into eternity. The warm rays of the early morning sun shine strongly through the well-proportioned stained glass, broken into shadows by the leaden frames.

Built of cold, white stone, and yet so warm. One can feel the very omnipresence of God himself move between the tall, slender columns supporting the hundred tons of stone above.

Moving up the aisle, one is confronted by a great screen of carved wood, aged, yet as strong as the concrete of which so many of our buildings today are built. Looking upwards, one faces a glorious array of organ pipes. With their shining brass, they are set in the finest carved wooden frame in the whole of England. On both sides of the pipes, standing erect on two pillars of carved wood, stand two angels, each holding a brazen trumpet with wings outspread

In these early hours, a myriad angels' voices blend into im-

mortal harmony, a harmony man can never learn. The gold cross stands proudly on the gilded altar-cloth: a symbol of the very reason why this building was first erected.

The light grows stronger and the sun becomes warmer. This is surely the perfect retreat from the heat of the day. Yet I must wearily wind my way through the dusty streets of Cambridge, for the time for dreaming is over and my mind must set itself to the common tasks of life.

M. L. Pegg, 3A.

JUNIOR DRAMATICS.

SEVERAL of the First and Second Year pupils have come along on Wednesday evenings to Junior Dramatics, where they receive instruction in the art of speech and mime. This term is a very busy one as preparations are going forward for the production of both the Coventry Nativity Play and also a Medieval Mummers' Wassailing Play for the Junior Christmas parties. It is also hoped to incorporate some of the musical talent of the Junior School in these performances. Next term a One-Act Play Festival will be held, in order to provide a purpose for further speech training, which is an important function of this happy venture.

R.B.K., S.M.D.W.

MY AUNT JANE.

MY Aunt Jane was an elderly woman, who mostly wore a mauve dress with small lemon flowers on it. She had grey hair put up in a bun, and gold-rimmed spectacles perching on the end of her nose, promising to fall off at any moment. She would sit for hours in an old rocking-chair, knitting. A brightly-hued parrot sat on the back of the chair and chattered away unceasingly. Every night at six o'clock she would go to the garden gate and stand there looking down the road, till she heard lambs and sheep; then she knew her husband was returning and went in to make tea. No matter what the weather, you would always find her at the gate at six o'clock at night.

Wendy Hadley, 3C.

THE SCHOOL DANCE ORCHESTRA.

WEIRD and sometimes wonderful sounds are heard coming from the Art room on Monday evenings when the school dance orchestra begin their weekly practice.

It is now a well-established institution made up of a saxophone, a trumpet, a piano, a bass, drums—a large bass drum has recently

been added— and three violins. At the beginning of the year, three members having left the school, new talent was introduced to make up for the losses. After the initial process of fitting together, the orchestra soon returned to its original standard and has steadily improved it during the year.

The orchestra's repertoire has also been growing and now allows a full-size dance to be tackled with a wide range of pieces ready to be played.

It has provided some of the music for the Christmas parties, as well as playing for the fifth and sixth form end-of term dances. It has also performed at a number of George Dixon Grammar School functions. Next New Year's Eve, it has been asked to play for the Cresconians New Year's Dance, which is a step on the road to local establishment and recognition.

But the orchestra will only remain an established institution in the school if new players and instruments, particularly the former, are forthcoming.

Thus, with such a promising future, as well as with the pleasure which it provides, the orchestra must be sustained, and must not be allowed to disappear from school life through lack of support .

S. R. Haine, 6A.

A SHIP ON THE SEA AT NIGHT.

IT was a still and starless night. The ship was gently tossing on the calm waves. Her white sails stood out against the dark background. Not a sound could be heard except for the swishing of the waves. There was an air of eeriness about the scene. The sea was a dark blue carpet of ripples, which looked like ghosts riding their sea horses. The moon above gave little light and appeared to be a piece of silver on a sheet of dark cloth. Suddenly the picture broke, a cry was heard, "Land Ahoy," then a chorus of joyful shouting. The beautiful dream-land suddenly came to life again. Everything returned to normal, the sun broke through. The starless night had become another day.

Judith Newbitt, 2B.

A RIVER.

THE sun glinted on the water making it sparkle and glisten as it flowed silently along. The birds were singing on nearby trees and flowers of all colours strewed the banks. For miles all was countryside, green and cooling in the heat. Yellow cornfields, with bright red poppies here and there, spread out to the left. To the right, the river, then hills and dales of green velvet.

A willow bent to touch the water, shading a young family of moorhens from the summer sun. The water lapped against the banks with a liquid sound and, apart from a chirp from a nearby nest, all was wrapped in peaceful silence. The clouds lay white and fluffy on a bed of blue, and drifted gently along with the calm wind.

Gradually the sun began to sink, tinting red the tops of the hills and darkening the surroundings. Here was a perfect scene to end a perfect day: the sun disappearing between the crests of two hills; the river now almost a silver colour, still winding its way through the brownish cornfields and greyish hills.

Now there was no sound at all, the birds were in their nests, even the river was silent, respecting the coming of night.

Lindy Ranford, 2B.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION OUTING.

IN July 1959 the sixth form geography group joined similar groups from other schools for an outing, the purpose of which was to study the South West edge of the Birmingham Plateau. Contrary to popular belief, Birmingham does not lie on a plain, but upon an extensive plateau. The slopes of this are gentle in the North and East, but in the South West the gradient is steep.

The party followed the course of the River Rea as far as Lifford, then turned off to Forhill, on the water parting of the rivers Rea and Arrow. From here they made their way to Alvechurch, following the old Roman road, the Icknield Street, now no more than a quiet lane, peopled only with shadows. Already the steep slopes of the Arrow Valley were obvious in contrast to the gentler gradients of the Rea Valley.

In Alvechurch the group saw the Bear Inn where Shakespeare is reputed to have written 'The Tempest'.

The next objective was Tardebigge where the problem presented by the steep edge of the plateau to lines of communications was even more apparent, for there are over forty locks on the canal between here and the Severn, about twenty within sight of Tardebigge. The village itself was interesting, at one time being a thriving canal port, but now having only a repair depôt. Originally this village was bigger than Redditch, and the church is still Redditch Parish Church.

Now climbing back up the steep edge of the plateau, we took the road for Bromsgrove. Here once more, the obstacle of the South West edge was emphasized, for the railway gradient is the steepest in the British Isles, and banker engines must be fitted to help push trains up the Lickey Incline.

On the way to Beacon Hill, in the Lickey Ridge, a surprising fact was noticed. This was that the sparkling roadside stream was once so powerful that it carved out the deep Lickey Gorge, and bears the proud name of 'River Arrow.' From the top of Beacon Hill an extensive panorama lay below.

The view from the Clent Hills was equally interesting. From there the party dropped down into the valley, then climbed back up the steep plateau edge, along Mucklow's Hill, and through Quinton, back to the city centre.

The outing had been most enjoyable and all felt they had learned much.

Pauline Marlow, 6A.

ANNUAL OUTING OF THE JOINT SOCIETIES.

AFTER we had all met at school at 7-30 a.m. on Friday, 10th July, the three coaches were soon away to a good start without any hitch, so setting the pattern for the rest of the day.

Very soon we were having a most exhilarating experience as we glided happily through the wonderful Cotswold countryside. After a short stop at Cheltenham where most of us bought light refreshments, we once again entered the glorious serenity of the Cotswold hills, looking back at the town nestling in a hollow.

After leaving the Cotswolds we continued to travel through beautiful, though vastly differing, countryside, and we passed, on our left, the famous 'White Horse' cut in the hillside.

Very soon afterwards we entered the impressive gateway leading to Longleat House, the Seat of the Marquis of Bath, and after driving some distance between trees and bushes, we eventually caught our first glimpse of Longleat House from the point called 'Heaven's Gate'—probably the only time some of us will ever reach it. There an awe-inspiring view met our eyes. Below us lay Longleat House itself standing proudly in the centre of a great valley. This magnificent structure certainly portrays a most stately home of England. Built in 1559 by Sir John Thynne, who was also its designer, Longleat House was entirely original in conception. It is famous for, amongst other things, its paintings, some of which were works of such old masters as Titian, Lorenzo Lotto and Sir Joshua Reynolds, and some large hunting scenes by Wootton. In the well-filled library can be seen the earliest Shakespeare folios and many other historical items. We were able to view these and many more such prizes when we were conducted around the house after having our picnic lunch in the extensive grounds.

All too soon we had to leave the quiet serenity of Longleat and

travel to Bath where we were able to inspect the famous Roman Baths and wander around the town. After a meal at Furzes' Restaurant we returned to the coaches to begin the homeward journey.

After a short break at Tewkesbury we soon recommenced the journey back, carolling songs with gay abandon and before very long we were in familiar surroundings as we neared home. We were soon all standing outside the school, rather sorrowful that such an enjoyable outing was over.

We all extend sincere thanks to Mr. Hetherington for organising so capably such a pleasurable excursion.

JOURNEY FROM AUSTRALIA.

THE sparkling morning on which we embarked made us even more loath to leave this wonderful country which for many years had been our home.

We sailed on the morning tide and pictures of the last few streamers and waving friends remained with us for several days to come.

The days went swiftly by as the graceful Oronsay sailed into each of the Southern State capitals of Melbourne and Adelaide for a short stay. The scenery was wonderful and each city had its own personal charm.

After Fremantle lay the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean and the age-old ceremony of "crossing the line", a fascinating and novel experience for those not versed in the lore of the sea.

We visited en route for England the city of gardens and flowers—Colombo. A wonderful place if you go into the right quarters. The climate was very hot and this enabled us to see the street snake-charmers who appear only in the heat, or so it is said.

At each different port we were served at dinner the particular national dish: at Naples, under the shadow of Vesuvius, we ate marcaroni and Bologna sausage cooked in the characteristically Italian way.

Next, Marseilles and still more of the glorious Mediterranean sunshine.

Gibraltar had its own charms in the forms of the Gibraltar monkeys and rugged scenery.

Then into the Bay of Biscay, with its notorious reputation for bad weather, where, like countless other ships, we passed through a violent storm.

Finally, into the safe haven of Southampton and all that horrid snow.

Joyce Allen, 5M.

BIOLOGY GROUP VISIT TO EDMOND HALL.

TWO parties each of twenty pupils visited Edgmond Hall during the Session 1958-59, one during the Easter Holidays and the second in the last week of July. The weather during the Easter visit was unusually good, but at the time of our visit in July the excellent weather had given way to showery conditions; these did not deter us from enjoying the Shropshire countryside. The party, following its normal procedure, was subdivided into small groups, each group pursuing its particular interest.

During our Easter visit the whole party enjoyed a long hike, but in the Summer two short walks were taken, punctuated by very heavy showers. The Easter excursion was to Trentham Gardens, and during our July visit we visited Ellesmere which offers delightful scenery and excellent boating. In the evenings when the weather permitted we played tennis; when it was unsuitable the whole party enjoyed draughts, table tennis or billiards in the recreation room.

These visits to Edgmond Hall are always most enjoyable, and anticipated by fortunate members, but the July week had a very obvious note of sadness since this was the last visit of Oldbury Grammar School pupils before Mr. and Mrs. Barker retired. I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Barker, on behalf of past and present pupils, most sincerely for everything they have done to make our visits so enjoyable and truly memorable. We wish them the health and happiness they so richly deserve in their retirement.

T. B. J. Hughes, 6B.

MY PET RABBIT.

I BOUGHT a pet rabbit,
A baby it's true,
If you wait for a minute,
I'll describe him to you.

His fur is quite golden,
Except for one spot,
For he has a white tail,
That wriggles a lot.

He waits for my coming,
So he can run free,
For grass is much nicer
Than cages you see.

Margaret Chapman, 1B.

A RUM EXPEDITION.

FOR several years, parties of boys from Oldbury Grammar School, under the leadership of Mr. Laycock, have visited the islands off the West coast of Scotland. The target of this year's expedition was the "forbidden" island of Rum, (or Rhum) in the Inner Hebrides. Several weeks before the departure of the expedition tea-chests, piles of canned food, kitbags and primus stoves began to accumulate in the balance room of the Chemistry laboratory, much to the amusement of various members of the staff.

Two weeks before 'le grand départ' Mr. Laycock was incapacitated, as a result of an accident, and the future of the expedition was plunged into jeopardy. Gloom and despondency descended on its members, who nevertheless resolutely continued to pack and label the baggage. However, all our fears proved groundless, and on 29th March, 1959, ten weirdly-clad figures, bent under rucksacks, assembled at New Street Station, and climbed into the 4.55 north-bound train. The party included a former teacher, Mr. Metcalf and two boys from Saltley Grammar School. We travelled through the night and the following afternoon arrived at Mallaig, a fishing port, at the terminus of the W. Highland line, where we boarded the Macbrayne steamer 'Loch Mor,' which maintains a regular inter-island service.

We arrived off Eigg, where the 'Loch Mor' was met by a motorboat which took off stores and mail, and then course was set for Rum, whose peaks were clearly visible against a blue sky. After some time, we and our gear were transferred to the 'Rumboat', which chugged slowly towards the mountain-girt shores of Loch Scresort, the only practicable landing-place, and the site of Kinloch, the only inhabited settlement, where we stayed the night.

The next morning, amid torrential rain, the expedition started to trek across the island to its headquarters—the hunting-lodge at Harris bay on the west side of the island. Mr. Laycock and the equipment were taken thither along a rough track, by land-rover and the consummate skill of Mr. Wormell, the warden, whose help was of great assistance to the party. Before describing the further activities of the expedition, perhaps a word about the island would not come amiss.

Rum is one of the few relatively unspoilt parts of the British Isles. It has an area of 26,400 acres, and lies fifteen miles west of the Inverness-shire mainland. In 1880, the island was bought by the Bullough family, who were responsible for building their former residence, Kinloch castle, three hunting-lodges on the island, and a mausoleum at the end of the Harris road where John, and his son Sir George Bullough, have their tombs. They were only a

short line, and in 1957 the island was handed over to the Nature Conservancy by Lady Bullough. There are at present about thirty inhabitants, all of whom live in Kinloch, a red deer population of over 1,500, the subject of much research by the Conservancy, and about two pairs of golden eagles. The island is one of the wettest places in the British Isles, having a total annual precipitation of over a hundred inches. It possesses many unique petralogical and geomorphological phenomena, such as several raised beaches, and Allivalite, a very rare ultra-basic rock, found only on the third highest peak on Rum, and named after it. It was with the intention of observing these phenomena, that the expedition set out.

Having arrived at Harris, the party spent the remainder of the day in unpacking the equipment, and preparing food. The next day the party split up, one section took rock samples from the foot of Trallval, a mountain to the S.E. of Harris, whilst the remainder of the party explored the coast near the lodge. The following day, after an ample breakfast, the party marched northwards to Kilmory, the site of a former settlement, whose ruined walls and burial ground may still be seen.

On the following day, Friday April 3rd, the party crossed the 1,500 foot ridge to the S.E., and found themselves at Papadil (the "priest's dale"), where there is a hunting-lodge, a small wood, and a lake, within a stone's throw of the sea, but not connected to it in any way, its surface being about twelve feet above sea-level. The Bulloughs had been forced to build a jetty out to sea for the transport of building materials, and had afterwards blown it up, to ensure complete isolation of this part of the island.

The evenings at Harris were occupied in writing up accounts of the day's activities, eagerly listening to the portable radio for news of the outside world, and organising general knowledge contests, in which Pardoe, the acknowledged "brain of Harris," was usually victorious. All cooking was done on paraffin pressure stoves by the various members of the expedition, and all food used (mostly canned), had to be transported from the mainland.

The lodge at Harris consists of a single-storied five-roomed unfurnished stone building. Cold water is piped from a nearby burn, and hot water can be obtained if one is sufficiently energetic to carry driftwood up from the beach.

On Saturday, a party walked the six and a half miles to Kinloch, in pouring rain, to pick up supplies. They arrived with the stores, in the land-rover some hours later, damp but happy. The next day, a lecture was given by Mr. Laycock, in the shelter of the

mausoleum, on the geology of Rum, and a survey of the different rock-types in the immediate vicinity was made. On Monday, the expedition intended to ascend Allival and Askival (2,659 ft.), two of the highest mountains on Rum. The party reached an estimated height of 2,200 feet, but were driven back by very high winds, and blizzard conditions. Handfuls of snow, as proof of the conditions, were taken back to Harris in a thermos flask, for the edification of Mr. Laycock, who was most unfortunately unable to accompany us on our exploration of the island. Nevertheless, samples of Allivalite were obtained, in spite of the somewhat inclement weather.

The next day, a visit was made to "Bloodstone Hill", five miles N.W., once a source of that beautiful semi-precious stone. On the outward journey, the thousand-foot cliffs of Wreck Bay and Schooner point were passed, and the islands of Canna and Sandby were clearly visible, but on the inward journey, a heavy mist came down, and it was thought safer to squelch damply along the remains of the old pony track back to Harris.

Wednesday dawned bright and clear, and with regret we packed our equipment, and left Harris lodge for Kinloch, where a visit was made to the castle, through the kindness of the curator, Captain Gordon. That evening we were invited to the castle cellars to see the film of Shakespeare's 'Henry V'. All the population turned out to see the performance.

On Thursday, April 9th., the members of the expedition rose at 6-10 a.m., and packed up their equipment for the last time. At 8 a.m., the hooter of the steamer was heard echoing round the bay, and the party, weighed down with impedimenta, ran towards the landing-stage with anxious Robinson Crusoe-like thoughts running through their minds. However all was well, and we arrived safely on board, and watched the mountains of Rum recede into the distance.

Back once more at Mallaig, we boarded the train; reached Glasgow that evening; and thence through the night to the hubbub and bustle of Birmingham, where we arrived at 8-30 a.m. The expedition was over. It had been successful in its object, and all the members had enjoyed themselves immensely, at the same time having learned much of interest. That this should be so is due to a great extent to the excellent organisation of the leaders, and the active co-operation of the Nature Conservancy, to whom we accord our sincere thanks.

J. N. Gosling, 6B.

ALONG THE SHORE.

THE beach, deserted till the morn,
 Looked desolate, barren and forlorn.
 The sand reached on into the sea
 The tide was flowing endlessly.
 Huge cliffs lurched upwards to the sky,
 I looked again, and by and by
 A boat had sailed into the bay
 Whose prow slid peacefully though the spray.
 The burning sun sank down to rest
 And I, alone, resumed my quest.

Sandra Hadley, 4A.

THE GIRLS' HOLIDAY ABROAD.

THE girls' holiday abroad in the Easter vacation of 1959 was spent in Spain, centred on the fishing village of Blanes on the Costa Brava. The route taken was Birmingham, London, Newhaven, Dieppe, Paris, Orleans, Limoges, Toulouse, Perpignan, Gerona and Blanes. The journey was broken by a night's stay in London, a day-time crossing of the channel and an evening meal in Paris, after which we travelled through the night, skirting the Massif Central, to arrive at Perpignan at 8 a.m. Here we changed to motor coach which took us the remaining portion of the journey, through the Pyreness and then on the narrow coastal road to Blanes. We arrived at the Fonda del Centro, Blanes, for lunch.

Blanes is the "gateway to the Costa Brava." The houses are typically Spanish, being thick-walled and flat-roofed. From the one main shopping street, parallel to the sea front, runs a network of narrow, sanded streets, allowing only the passage of a donkey and cart. Blanes has a local fishing and basket-making industry. After a night's fishing, the nets would be spread on the beach to dry and in the early morning the women-folk repaired them.

Like the rest of Spain, the people of Blanes are strongly Roman Catholic. We were fortunate to witness their Easter celebrations, which included on Good Friday evening a torchlight procession and on Easter Sunday, the dancing of the children in national costume.

From Blanes, excursions of educational value were made; one to the famous mountain monastery of Montserrat, which we reached by chair lift. The mountain mass on which the monastery is built has the appearance of a turreted castle, due to a combination of natural weathering and rock structure. We were

fortunate to hear in the monastery the singing of its famous choir. The monastery has a school of ecclesiastical music, which dates from the thirteenth century and is said to be the oldest school of music in Europe. On the mountain's summit, which we reached by another funicular, a magnificent view was seen of the whole of Catalonia, with the Pyrenees to the North and Eastwards the Balearic Islands, rising from the blue Mediterranean.

Another excursion was made to the capital of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain's second city and one of the chief ports on the Mediterranean. It is, in fact, a dual city, one old, one modern. The old town has narrow streets and mediaeval houses; the modern, wide, tree-lined boulevards with concrete skyscrapers. We visited Republic House in which the Republic of Spain was declared in 1931, after the overthrow of the monarchy.

To reach Barcelona, we travelled south, along the Costa Brava, passing the terraced hillsides, with their huertas and vines. The green vines made a striking contrast to their background of red rocks and soils. Outside Barcelona, a visit was made to what is known as the Spanish Village, where was seen a collection of buildings and houses that would be found in towns and villages of various parts of Spain.

Our third tour was one of exploration of the Costa Brava itself. It is a rugged coast with practically no coastal plain. The road twists and turns continuously, offering a constantly changing panorama of superb coastal scenery. Here and there we noticed beneath the road a small bay of golden sand, which could be reached by a steep path, winding through the woods of cork-oak. From the bark of this tree, cork is obtained and in the villages peasant craftsmen fashion it into articles of value giving ready appeal to tourists.

Other visits were made to places of local interest and on Good Friday the party was able to enjoy bathing in the blue waters of the Mediterranean.

The holiday, one of the most enjoyable of its kind, would not have been possible without the foresight, consideration and thoughtfulness of Miss Firth, Miss Sendell, Miss Horton and Miss Woodburn, to whom we all extend our thanks and appreciation.

Luned M. Morris. 6A.

BOYS' EXCURSION TO DINARD, BRITTANY, AUG. 1959.

WITHOUT doubt the Boys' Excursion to Dinard in Brittany this year was a complete exception to the general rule for continental excursions. A small party of twelve was selected, the venue chosen, and much to the excitement of the party it was

decided that the holiday should include a cross-channel flight by B.E.A. Viscount.

At 9 a.m. on Tuesday, August 25th., the party took its seats on the London Express. The journey was to prove eventful: our engine broke down between Banbury and London, thereby losing an hour which we could just afford. Travelling from Paddington to Victoria by tube, we arrived with only two minutes to spare. The Viscount took off from Gatwick in brilliant sunshine, but on arrival in Dinard, we were dismayed to find overcast skies, a chill wind, and rain seemed imminent. The whole party plus four ladies piled into a small bus designed to take fewer passengers, and we were on our way to the Hotel Eden, but not direct; by complicity, we stopped outside a travel agency from which a substantially built Bretonne emerged, bore down upon the party and within some minutes had arranged two excursions for us, one to Mont Saint Michel, and the other to Cap Frehel. She became affectionately known as Flossie, and on every subsequent encounter tried to arrange yet another excursion or requested our support in encouraging other visitors to book.

Our hotel was typically French, and the cooking in particular was of a very high standard. The beach was only a short walk from the hotel, which together with the glorious weather lived up to our expectations. Many beach parties were organised, on which we swam, played football, canoed, sunbathed, or slept; the two latter activities were often the most popular.

The excursions organised by our Breton friend proved to be truly enjoyable, the more spectacular being to 'le merveil' of Mont Saint Michel. Built on a rugged cone of rock, its only connection with the mainland is by means of an embanked causeway which is covered by high tides. The town itself consists of one narrow street which winds up the rock past the Parish Church of Saint Michael, to the Abbey at the crest. The street is flanked by cafes, restaurants and souvenir shops, but few souvenirs were purchased, the prices being exorbitant. The Parish Church is small but houses the famous statue of Saint Michael, life-size in solid silver encrusted with gems, fortunately overlooked during the years of occupation.

Our second excursion was to Cap Frehel, a windswept headland reached along a coast road which took us by many delightful coves, and through lanes and hedgerows reminiscent of home. A new lighthouse has recently been built on the headland beside the old tower. The million watt light floats on a bath of mercury, and casts its powerful beam seawards, 85 kilometres in good weather and 21 in the prevalent coastal fogs. After a conducted tour of the lighthouse the party gathered in the local restaurant, built at the extremity of the headland overlooking the sea. It was

while we were in the restaurant that a vedette, a small flat-bottomed pleasure boat, appeared around the headland corkscrewing in the rough sea below. Immediately the party were unanimous in wanting to revisit Cap Frehel by vedette. Looking back, we realise we made an error of judgement! The sea was so rough for our journey, the Captain turned back five miles from Le Cap, the decks were cleared, and the bows were soon awash. We rose to the crest of the wave, seemed to pause, tremble, then rush downwards into the trough. Below deck the party gathered to one side, and maintained its morale, if not its lunch, by rousing song.

A much less eventful boat journey was made the next day to the ancient walled town of Saint Malo, which, although partially destroyed during the recent war, has been reconstructed keeping its old character. It was here that we purchased most of our souvenirs, which gave us plenty of opportunity to excel in French conversation.

One of the highlights of our stay in Dinard was 'Le Grand Pardon de la Mer' which was celebrated on the Sunday; this festival has its roots in Breton paganism, but has been christianised by the Church. Celebrated annually, it consists of a morning service, followed by a very colourful parade of Breton costumes. Unfortunately the week quickly passed, and we were once again aboard the *Viscount*, making the home-ward journey.

In conclusion, I would like to thank sincerely Mr. Swain, on behalf of the whole party, for organising and making possible such an enjoyable holiday, and we hope that holidays of this nature may continue in the future.

T. B. John Hughes, 6B.

THE RISING OF THE STORM.

PINK-TINGED clouds dot the celestial blue heavens. Fluffy wisps veil the paling sky, softening into the purple-shaded twilight. In the West the fiery, glowing sun is no longer visible, but deep orange rays sear across the darkening sky, casting an ethereal glow on the rounded, black hillocks silhouetted against a violent backcloth. The wild sight is like an eternal hell-fire, blinding dazzling, burning frightening and magnificent.

Black clouds rise swiftly in the East like a great Armada. The fluffy wisps are overcome and swirl in the great whirling mass of stormy billows. The conquerer charges on. The leaping fire fades, then the embers die away, crushed by the oncoming danger. Ominous rumbles roll across the tumultuous, deep, purple cumulus. White sharp flashes zig-zag beneath the overhanging roof, lighting the ghostly countryside, the tall, stark poplars, the tiny,

isolated cottages shrouded in deep sleep, the old horse shivering in the cold field and the lonely shepherd guarding his frightened flock.

Crash! A great rumble thunders over the earth. This is the signal for the deluge. The storm-laden clouds burst open revealing a flood of cold, grey water. Spikes of stormy liquid rush to meet the dried-up earth. Roaring, the water tumbles down in great sheets. Flash! Yellow stripes streak through the heavy mists, accompanied by a long, loud roll of thunder.

Deep whistling sounds are heard in the distance. Louder and louder the rising wind blows. The tall, sturdy poplars bend and crack under the onslaught. The rafters and beams of the ancient cottage stir and groan beneath their heavy burden. The long, shrill whinny of the trembling horse is lost in the deafening roar. The sheep huddle closer to the shivering shepherd. Roars and crashes echo through the noisy night as trees fall, dams crack and houses divide. The storm has risen!

Joan M. Allen, 5G.

STORM.

I HEARD the crash of the thunder
 And the incesasing roar of the foam,
 As I stood on the cliffs in the darkness
 Away from my city home.
 When the rain rushed madly in torrents
 There was no consolation to me,
 I was lost and alone on the stormswept cliffs
 Down by the salty sea.

The lightning lighted the cliff-path
 Which the rain was washing away,
 Water was all around me
 Wherever I might stray,
 The land all around was darkness,
 The water was fearless and free,
 With the roar of the rain and the thunder
 Sweeping the salty sea.

Marjorie Weston, 4A.

A WINDY DAY IN THE MOUNTAINS.

THE wind swooped down the mountains, rushed up the valleys, swept across streams and plucked at the trees. A single silver birch, bent against the wind, broke the skyline of a lonely slope. The tree was devoid of foliage but seemed alive as it swayed in the wind. A noise broke the whistling and howling. It was

the irregular banging of a shutter on the window of a deserted farmhouse. The shutter hung tenaciously on one hinge and the tumbleweed rolled and threw itself about the yard. A saw, rusty with age, hummed and vibrated in the log which was its grave. The wind rushed through gaping holes where once had been windows. No fire crackled in the hearth; only soot and broken bricks lay there.

Many feet above all this, a lonely eagle glided on the currents of air, waiting for his prey. The heather and bracken rippled like waves on a sea. A mountain snake, seemingly harmless but in reality deadly, glided between boulders.

As dusk fell the cold drifted down the valley like an approaching army. It chilled the bones of every living creature in sight and even the trees seemed to fold in their branches to retain warmth. Shadows grew longer and merged into the darkness. The sombre mountains showed up black against the lighter sky. Now was the time for the owls to hunt. The moon rose and shed its silver light over the hillside throwing all the rocks into relief. The wind still howled, throwing eddies of dust into the air like ghosts drifting about the hillside. It is dark but life continues, on the hillside.

Philip Jones, 3A.

CORIOLANUS AT THE STRATFORD MEMORIAL THEATRE.

AT Stratford this year the directors decided to see what Sir Laurence Olivier could do in that less popular play of Shakespeare's, 'Coriolanus.' A group of sixth formers (all girls) were also interested to see what he could do, and with Miss Turner and Miss Walton caught a diesel train from Snow Hill Station, Birmingham on a lovely Saturday afternoon in July, specially to find out.

Added attractions were the appearance of Birmingham Repertory's Albert Finney in the middle of his first Stratford season and the fact that the play was directed by the young and somewhat controversial Shakespearean producer, Peter Hall.

We were not disappointed. A handsome and proud Sir Laurence gave a sleek, interesting and vital performance as Coriolanus. Peter Hall's production provided a daring, backward death-plunge from a high platform by Coriolanus which would still have been a remarkable feat from a younger actor.

Harry Andrews was consistently good as Menenius, a patrician friend of Coriolanus and Albert Finney gave a satisfying performance as the First Roman Citizen; but the interest lagged when Sir Laurence was off the stage for long. Dame Edith Evans as Volumnia, Coriolanus's mother, sounded tired and feeble, and

Mary Ure did not have much scope in the part of Virgilia, Coriolanus's wife.

Most of the actors, particularly the youthful-looking Coriolanus, made the best of a cumbersome (yet ingenious) set. But we all agreed that in every way the production was a fine effort to make the best of material which, apart perhaps from the character of Coriolanus, is rather dry.

A walk by the Avon and around Stratford completed our afternoon's enjoyment.

Veronica Kingsnorth, 6A.

FRENCH VERSE SPEAKING COMPETITION

ON November 12th, 1958, a party of six girls from various forms, under the supervision of Mr. Lawton, departed with some trepidation for Birmingham University in order to take part in the Annual Verse Speaking Competition. On arriving there we were ushered into the amphitheatre in which were assembled representatives of all the Birmingham Schools.

The Junior, Intermediate and Senior Competitors were divided, and then each age group was sub-divided into small groups of six competitors. The poems recited were:-

For the Juniors: "Sommeil de l'enfant" by Victor Hugo.

For the Intermediates: "Le Repas Préparé" Albert Samain.

For the Seniors: "Correspondances" by Charles Baudelaire.

Only one of our girls was in the junior group, and while she was reciting her poem, the rest of us sat upon the hard lecture benches waiting for the dreaded moment to go up to the various lecture rooms, where we should recite ours.

When the ordeal was over, we pushed our way into the refectory for tea, where we mingled with the students. After this we returned to the amphitheatre to await the results, and to hear the winners recite their poems.

Although we did not win any prizes, the day was thoroughly enjoyable and we all anticipate another visit this coming November.

Teresa Sulley and Brenda Walter, 5M.

VISIT TO L'AVARE.

ON 4th February, 1959, the Sixth form French group attended a lecture given in the Edmund Street section of the University by Dr. F. Healey. The subject of the lecture was the play 'L'Avare' by Molière, which was to be performed the following week by the "Cercle Français" of the University. The lecture

helped to throw light upon the characterisation, and upon the development of the plot.

On the following Tuesday, the same party of girls, accompanied by several members of staff, went to the performance in the University Great Hall, Edgbaston.

L'Avare, a seventeenth century comedy is about a miser whose lust for money overcomes all other human emotions in him, to such an extent that everyone, even his own children, appear to him to be thieves plotting to steal his hoard of money. The humorous situations and the clever 'double-entendre' contributed to the success of the play.

The students' acting was praiseworthy and we were particularly impressed by the portrayal of the miser Harpagon.

We all enjoyed ourselves, and we should like to express our thanks to the members of staff who organised these visits.

Pamela Bradley and Janice Bagnall, 6A.

THE CALL OF THE SEA.

A sailor's life
Is the life for me,
Where the waves ride high,
And the wind is free.

Where the decks are beaten
And drenched with spray;
Where the wind's abeam
At the break of day.

Where the lighthouse signals,
It calls "Take care,"
While around in the mist
The fog-horns blare.

Where the rigging creeks
As it sways and falls,
Lulled by the breeze
Where the seagull calls.

Yes, a sailor's life
Is the life for me,
Where the waves ride high,
And the wind is free.

Janet Townsend, 3C.

SEMAINE CULTURELLE, PARIS, EASTER 1959.

DURING the Easter holidays, Ann Murray, Margaret Taylor and I visited Paris for the first time for a *Semaine Culturelle*, organised by the Birmingham Anglo-French Society, which took place at Lycée Lakanal, Sceaux.

Shortly before midnight on Wednesday, March 25th, a crowd of excited sixth formers from many of the schools in and around Birmingham assembled on Snow Hill Station. We announced our arrival to Mr. Lawton and Miss Worthington, and after patiently listening to our parents' innumerable last minute instructions, we eventually set off for London, arriving just as dawn was breaking. After a very welcome breakfast at Victoria, we caught the boat-train to Newhaven, where we passed through the Customs with unusually clear consciences. Our Channel-crossing to Dieppe was calm and uneventful, and we were soon on our way across the uninteresting countryside of Northern France towards Paris.

Arriving at the Gare St. Lazare at about eight o'clock in the evening, we caught our first glimpse of Paris by night. Our long, tiring journey was forgotten, as we gazed in fascination at the brightly-lit streets of the French capital. On the way towards Sceaux, we saw for the first time the sleek silhouette of the Tour Eiffel, looming above the black waters of the Seine.

Our first impression of Lycée Lakanal was of an endless maze of corridors. (We later learned that this vast school has no less than 3,700 pupils of whom seven hundred are boarders.) In due course, however, we discovered the relative positions of the dormitories, the dining-room, the parloir, the *sécrtariat* and a small number of classrooms.

Next morning, classes began. These included lectures on set books by the French staff, *thèmes*, conversation groups, phonetics classes and a prize essay and *thème*. These lectures provided us with ideal opportunities for increasing our knowledge of French language and literature.

After lunch each day we visited many of the famous places in and around Paris. Our first excursion took the form of a coach tour of the city, pausing en route to visit the Hôtel des Invalides, where Napoleon is buried, the beautiful white stone church of Sacré-Coeur on the hill of Montmartre, and the world famous cathedral of Notre-Dame with its exquisite rose-windows. Next day we paid a brief visit to the Louvre, where we saw innumerable paintings and statues including the 'Venus de Milo' and Leonardo da Vinci's 'Mona Lisa' with her enigmatic smile. No holiday in Paris would be complete without a visit to the Tour Eiffel ! With some trepidation Ann and I watched the streets of Paris

grow smaller and smaller, as we approached the summit of the third tallest building in the world. A high wind was blowing and, as we leaned over the safety rail to admire the vast expanse of the great city, we felt the tower sway slightly.

Our next excursion was to the magnificent Palace of Versailles with its beautifully decorated rooms and formal, elegant grounds. This great palace, the scene of such splendour and gaiety during the reign of the 'Roi Soleil' now has a strangely melancholy atmosphere. While walking along the 'Tapis Vert' or standing by the still waters of the lake in Marie-Antoinette's 'hameau', one's thoughts drift back to the Versailles of centuries past.

Immediately after breakfast on Wednesday, April 1st., we set out for Chartres, Maintenon and Rambouillet. The cathedral at Chartres is notable for its unusual towers, one Norman and the other Gothic, and for its superb stained-glass windows. In the crypt we were shown a well, into which, it is said, the bodies of the inhabitants of Chartres were thrown after a massacre.

Next day we visited the Gobelin tapestry works, where we saw many partially completed tapestries, remarkable for their unusual modern designs and rich, vivid colours. We were told that one weaver can complete between two and six square metres of tapestry each year.

On Friday afternoon came one of the highlights of our visit to Paris. Ann, Margaret and I went by Métro to the Rond-Point of the Champs-Élysées and made our way along Avenue Montaigne to the elegant salon of Christian Dior, where we were privileged to see the Spring Fashion Collection. The suits and short evening dresses were particularly delightful, with shades of red and blue predominant, and the atmosphere of luxury in the salon temporarily banished from our minds the thought that our supply of French currency was by now rapidly diminishing.

Next morning the prize-giving took place, and those of us who had been fortunate enough to receive prizes were allowed to celebrate with champagne provided by the Lycée. (This could prove an ideal stimulus for pupils who lack enthusiasm!) Afterwards we spent our last afternoon on and around the Ile-de-la-Cité, visiting the Sainte-Chapelle and saying a sad "au revoir" to Notre-Dame.

During our stay in Paris, we visited the Comédie-Française to see Molière's 'Le Tartuffe,' Racine's 'Andromaque' and Corneille's 'Horace'. In all the plays the acting was excellent, and we found little difficulty in understanding the text.

All too soon the Semaine Culturelle came to its end, and we left Lycée Lakanal with many happy memories, hoping to return in the not too distant future.

In conclusion, on behalf of Ann, Margaret and myself, I should like to thank all those who organised such an enjoyable and instructive holiday, and to express the hope that many future French groups will have the opportunity of this invaluable experience.

Nora C. Reynolds, 6A.

CHARTRES CATHEDRAL.

THE air is heavy with the breath of incense,
 A rich, luxurious, perfume-laden haze;
 All is calm,
 The silent stones sleep in the breathless hush
 Of perfect peace.

Outside, the traffic blares,
 The narrow streets reverberate with sound.
 Here, all is still;
 The dusty, golden rays of pale Spring sunlight
 Stream through an iridescent radiance
 Of emerald, crimson, sapphire, amethyst,
 Casting upon the greying, time-worn stones
 A pale reflection of a by-gone age.

Nora C. Reynolds, 6A.

"VIVE MONSIEUR BLAIREAU"

ON 14th July, the French National Day, a small party of pupils from Forms V and VI went to the West End Cinema in Birmingham accompanied by Miss Horton and Mr. Lawton, to see a special showing of the French film 'Vive Monsieur Blaireau' arranged by the Anglo-French Society of Birmingham (Schools' Branch) in honour of Bastille Day.

The proceedings opened with three short speeches: Mr. Green began by introducing the French consul in Birmingham, Monsieur de Coulhac-Mazerieux, who spoke in appreciation of the work done by the Anglo-French Society of Birmingham in furthering the aims of the Entente Cordiale. The Deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham then replied.

The film (we were relieved to find it had English sub-titles!) was about the activities of a poacher, Monsieur Blaireau, and his dog, Fous-le-camp! in their attempts to avoid the village policeman. After ending up in gaol through a miscarriage of justice, Blaireau finds that his expertise in providing tasty morsels for the table makes him a most popular inmate with the prison governor—a popularity which almost brings him to be elected mayor of the village.

Members of the party would like to thank Miss Horton and Mr. Lawton for inviting us to go with them.

ALONE.

I LOVE to walk by myself; alone,
Alone on the windy moors;
And there I love to look down,
Down to the sandy shores.

I love to walk by myself alone,
Alone on the pebbly beach;
And there I love to look across,
To countries out of reach.

I love to sit by myself; alone,
Alone in the cool, dark caves;
And there I love to listen to,
The sound of the thundering waves.

I love to sit by myself; alone,
Alone on the misty heights;
And there I love to gaze upon,
The harbour's twinkling lights.

Jean Hunt, 4A.

FRENCH SONGS WITH A DIFFERENCE !

WAS it an intense love of the Arts which caused a motley band of our students to gather on the Birmingham Art Gallery steps on a rainy summer evening? Was it their design as students of architecture to admire the magnificent municipal buildings? Perhaps as Natural Historians they wished to observe the prodigious pantomime of the local pigeons? Alas no! They were awaiting the arrival of other members of the party who had either not yet found their way into the centre of Birmingham, or who had not yet returned from their hurried snacks in Espresso coffee bars or Lyons tea-shops.

One by one the missing members emerged from cafe doors, buses and car parks. At last the party was complete and, shepherded by Mr. Lawton, our flock entered the Art Gallery (taking care to walk steadfastly past the dreadful visage of Lucifer!) After what seemed to be miles of galleries we entered a concert hall filled with young men and women like ourselves, radiating intelligence, there to await a recital by the celebrated French minstrel Jan Rosol.

After a few opening remarks Monsieur Rosol began his musical tour of France. Like that of Lear's Owl his song was accompanied by the music of a small guitar. His choice of songs ranged

from the amusing to the hilarious, and all were appreciated by the audience (not instructed to applaud at every pause)—in particular a version of “Au Clair de la Lune” not heard in form rooms.

At last the concert came to its inevitable end and M. Rosol, after his excellent performance, was accorded a fitting ovation. As the party filed out of the Art Gallery, homeward bent, all without exception seemed to have been highly delighted both by the versatility of the artiste and by the varied and most amusing content of his programme. Indeed the sincere thanks of all privileged to attend must be accorded both to the accompanying Staff and to the organisers of this scintillating event.

M. J. Prestidge, VG.

GIRL GUIDES.

Captain: F. D. TWEEDIE.

Lieutenants: B. PINE, M. COXILL.

Cadets: C. GREGORY (*Leader*), D. HOLTOM, N. REYNOLDS,
D. WESTWOOD, C. DANIELS, A. DOWNS, P. NORVILLE.

Leaders:

B. WEBB (Bullfinch), C. JONES (Chaffinch), M. A. JONES (Clover),
S. BROWN (Daffodil), S. SNELUS (Hawthorn),
N. ROGERS (Orchid), J. ROLLASON (Swallow).

THE Guides and Cadets again met regularly on Monday evenings after school. In the first few meetings of the autumn term, we found that we had a bumper crop of recruits, all eager to pass their tenderfoot tests and become fully-fledged members of the company. Their enrolment and the investiture of Cadets took place in November.

As usual, many members of the company attended Church Parades during the year. The first of these was the senior branch parade which four Cadets attended, one of them carrying the standard. The service, at Saint Paul's, Birmingham, was conducted by Canon Stevens, an old boy of the school. We also attended the two civic services, the Armistice and Mayor's Sunday Parades. At the Annual Division Parade, at Edgbaston Old Church, our company formed the choir. As a result of Mr. Jones's excellent training our singing of the anthem, 'The Lord is my Shepherd,' by Henry Smart, was greatly appreciated by the congregation. After the Parade, the Cadets served tea to the Extension (handicapped) Guides and the Scout Band.

Guides worked during the year for tenderfoot, second-class and proficiency badges. Also, two Guides were successful in passing the first-class test, and another Guide gained her all-round cords.

Patrol activities flourished once more in a keen competitive spirit, and several leaders took their patrols on enjoyable hikes during the school holidays.

The company served refreshments at the three performances of the school play, 'The Nightingale,' and also at a concert given for the blind people of Oldbury, Halesowen and Worcester. The Cadets and senior Guides also served lunch at a function for Cub Masters and Mistresses at Guide Headquarters.

Birmingham County held a number of trainings throughout the year. Some of our Patrol Leaders attended a training which

proved very useful to them in subsequent meetings. Four Cadets spent an instructive evening at headquarters, learning about both Guide and Brownie work. Later in the year, our two Lieutenants attended a course of lectures in campcraft, followed by a camp at which they took the various tests for their Campers' Licences. These they both passed with flying colours. When the Mobile Training Unit visited Wolverhampton in June, two of our Cadets were fortunate enough to be invited to the Guiders' Training Here, they learned many new ideas which they later passed on to the company.

The Guides spent most of the Autumn Term preparing for our Annual Sale of Work, held on November 28th., which was opened by Mrs. Downs, our new District Commissioner. For the first time in our history, the Guiders' stall did not raise the most money, being beaten by the Cadets, who made £21. Altogether a record amount of well over £100 was made. Mr. Hudson again had a stall, selling Christmas cards in aid of the N.S.M.H.C.

For the same good cause, some of the Cadets and senior Guides sang carols at Christmas in Langley. They made £5/10/0d, and were invited to join a "very select choir" in the process.

The Guides were also active in the athletic field, as they entered and won both the District Athletics Sports and Swimming Gala, the latter for the ninth time in succession.

At the end of the year, we were all too willing to pack up our examination worries in our kit-bags and set off in Lloyds Coaches, which though dilapidated took us the 200 miles to Beer in record time. On arrival we found that our home for the next fortnight was the "haunted field". We survived, however, no doubt owing to the butcher's mistake in one day delivering 360 sausages ! We were very pleased to welcome to our camp this year a small group of Guides from the newly-formed company at Albright School.

We would like to close this report by offering our grateful thanks to Miss Tweedie, our two lieutenants and badge testers who have helped us during the year.

Chloë Daniels and Angela Downs, 6A.

GIRLS' ATHLETIC SPORTS, 1959.

HIGH JUMP

- 11 yrs. 1, S. Jones (K); 2, J. Ekins (K); 3, J. Skitt (S).
(3' 6")
- 12 yrs. 1, P. Wilkins (K); 2, D. Birch (S); 3, G. Read (Q) and
N. Poole (K).
4' 0"
- 13 yrs. 1, C. Millard (T); 2, M. Tranter (K); 3, J. Hadley (Q),
J. Parsons (Q) and P. Rogers (S).
(3' 8")
- 14 yrs. 1, G. Smith (S); 2, M. White (S); 3, S. Hadley (T).
- 15 yrs. +1, C. Gregory (S); 2, L. Moores (T); 3, P. Webb (S).
(4' 5½")

LONG JUMP

- 11 yrs. 1, S. Jones (K); 2, J. Skitt (S); 3, J. Ekins (K).
(12' 1")
- 12 yrs. 1, R. Deakin (Q); P. Wilkins (K); 3, J. Harding (T).
- 13 yrs. 1, C. Millard (T); 2, J. Hunt (T); 3, A. Evans (S).
- 14 yrs. 1, M. White (Q); 2, P. Bevington (K); 3, B. Walker (S).
- 15 yrs. + 1, L. Moores (T); 2, G. Britton (T); 3, L. Turner (K).

ROUNDERS BALL

- 11 yrs. 1, J. Skitt (S); 2, J. Downing (T); 3, K. Goode (Q).
- 12 yrs. 1, M. Poole (K); 2, M. Chalk (Q); 3, C. Richards (T).
- 13 yrs. 1, S. Wise (K); 2, R. Spenser (T); 3, M. Tranter (K).
- 14 yrs. 1, P. Bevington (K); 2, S. Taylor (K); 3, G. Haycock (S).
- 15 yrs. + 1, C. Gregory (S); 2, P. Webb (S); 3, H. Bolton (K).

100 YARDS

- 11 yrs. 1, J. Skitt (S); 2, S. Jones (K); 3, J. Ekins (K).
(13.3 secs.)
- 12 yrs. 1, H. Hopkins (K); 2, S. Baker (T); 3, P. Wilkins (K).
(12.7 secs.)
- 13 yrs. 1, J. Parsons (Q); 2, A. Chapman (S); 3, P. Rogers (S).
(12.7 secs.)
- 14 yrs. 1, S. Taylor (K); 2, M. Grout (T); 3, M. Moore (S).
(12.2 secs.)
- 15 yrs. + 1, C. Gregory (S); 2, R. Beard (Q); 3, J. Fletcher (K).
(11.9 secs.)

220 YARDS

- 11 yrs. 1, J. Skitt (S); 2, S. Jones (K); 3, G Ekins (K).
(31.6 secs.)
- 12 yrs. 1, G. Read (Q); 2, S. Baker (T); 3, H. Hopkins (K),
(30.5 secs.) P. Wilkins (K) and J. Insley (T).
- 13 yrs. 1, J. Parsons (Q); 2, P. Rogers (S); 3, J. Hadley (Q).
(30.4 secs.)
- 14 yrs. 1, S. Taylor (K); 2, M. Grout (T); 3, M. White (Q).
(29.0 secs.)
- 15 yrs+ 1, C. Gregory (S); 2, R. Beard (Q); 3, G. Britton (T).
(29.3 secs.)

SKIPPING

- 11 yrs. 1, J. Skitt (S); 2, S. Jones (K); 3, J. Ekins (K).
(14.0 secs.)
- 12 yrs. 1, M. Hopkins (K); 2, P. Wilkins (K); 3, R. Deakin (Q).
(13.4 secs.)
- 13 yrs. 1, J. Parsons (Q); 2, A. Chapman (S); 3, J. Hadley (Q).
(13.1 secs.)
- 14 yrs. 1, S. Taylor (K); 2, A. Smith (K); 3, N. Grout (T).
(12.8 secs.)
- 15 yrs.+ 1, C. Gregory (S); 2, R. Beard (Q); 3, J. Beech (T).
(13.0 secs.)

HOCKEY

- 11 yrs. 1, J. Skitt (S); 2, J. Ekins (K); 3, N. Edwards (T).
(16.4)
- 12 yrs. 1, H. Hopkins (K) and N. Smith (Q).
(24.4)
- 12 yrs. 1, J. Parsons (Q); 2, A. Dickens (K); 3, A. Evans (S).
(24.3)
- 14 yrs. 1, M. Stevens (Q); 2, N. White (Q).
(31.6)

JUNIOR RELAY

1, Kings; 2, Queens; 3, School.

INTERMEDIATE RELAY

1, School; 2, Trinity; 3, Queens.

SENIOR RELAY

1, Kings; 2, School; 3, Queens.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION

- Junior: Janet Skitt (S) 36 points.
Sylvia Jones (K) 24 points.
- Intermediate: Jean Parsons (Q) 24 points.
Stella Taylor (K) 22 points.
- Senior: Christine Gregory (S) 30 points.
Rosalind Beard (Q) 12 points.

GIRLS' GAMES, 1958-9.

Hockey.

THIS season, owing to a shortage of experienced players, it was found impossible to form a 2nd XI. However the 1st XI had a fairly successful season, winning 4 of their 9 matches, drawing 1, and losing 4. The team scored 27 goals and 21 were scored against them.

Permanent members of the team were as follows:- Christine Gregory (Captain), Margaret Barratt, Diana Holtom, Nora Reynolds, Patricia Webb, Margaret Taylor, Catherine Edmonds, Janet Picken, Stella Taylor and Joyce Fletcher.

Hockey colours were awarded to Diana Holtom, Margaret Taylor, Margaret Barratt, Joyce Fletcher and Nora Reynolds.

Christine Gregory, Patricia Webb, Margaret Barratt and Nora Reynolds were selected to take part in the final trials for the Worcestershire Grammar Schools' teams. Christine Gregory was chosen as left wing and captain of the 1st XI, Patricia Webb as right half for the 2nd XI and Margaret Barratt as reserve.

Tennis.

Weather conditions proved excellent this summer, and the tennis team played 4 matches, winning 1 and losing 2. One match was abandoned. The team won 12 games and lost 16.

The team was:- Christine Gregory, Christine Mallard, Rosalind Beard, Veronica Kingsnorth, Hazel Mansell and Nora Reynolds.

Veronica Kingsnorth, Rosalind Beard, Hazel Mansell and Nora Reynolds were awarded tennis colours.

Rounders.

The senior rounders team played 4 matches, winning 2 and losing 2. 24 rounders were scored for the school and 22 against.

The members of the team were:- Janice Bagnall (Captain), Joyce Fletcher, Janet Betts, Margaret Stanaway, Jacqueline Davies, Margaret Barratt, Jacqueline Shipstone, Susan Phipps.

Rounders colours were awarded to:- Margaret Stanaway, Janet Betts, Joyce Fletcher, Margaret Barratt.

The junior team played 4 matches, winning 1, drawing 1 and losing 2.

House Matches.

In the tennis house matches, Queen's House won all their three matches to gain first place; they were followed by Trinity who won two matches, School, one, and King's who lost all their three matches.

In the rounders house matches, King's House won all their three matches, followed by School, Trinity and Queen's.

King's and School tied for first place, in the hockey house matches, winning two matches and drawing one; Queen's and Trinity were equal third.

Nora C. Reynolds, 6A.

BOYS' ATHLETICS, JULY, 1959.

100 YARDS

- Group A/B.—1, Withers (S); 2, Clarke (Q); 3, Jarrett (S).
Time: 11.6 secs.
Group C.—1, Sadler (Q); 2, Swallow (Q); 3, Robinson (S).
Time: 11.8 secs.
Group D.—1, Harvey (S); 2, Oakes (Q).
Time: 10.5 secs. (Record).
Group E.—1, Hughes (T); 2, Glover (Q); 3, Moore (S).
Time: 10.4 secs.

220 YARDS

- Group A/B.—1, Withers (S); 2, Clarke (Q); 3, Jarrett (S).
Time: 28.0 secs.
Group C.—1, Swallow (Q); 2, Houghton (S); 3, Grosvenor (K).
Time: 28.3 secs.
Group D.—1, Harvey (S); 2, Bywater (T); 3, Oakes (Q).
Time: 25.4 secs.
Group E.—1, Robertson (K); 2, Glover (Q); 3, Hughes (T).
Time: 24.4 secs.

440 YARDS

- Group C.—1, Barnsley (K); 2, Sadler (Q); 3, Jones (S).
Time: 65.6 secs.
Group D.—1, Bywater (T); 2, Flavell (S); 3, Bridgen (Q).
Time: 63.9 secs.
Group E.—1, Pinson (T); 2, Page (K); 3, Bristow (Q).
Time: 58.2 secs.

880 YARDS

- Group D.—1, Russell (K); 2, Flavell (S); 3, Griggs (S).
Time: 2 mins 29.7 secs.
Group E.—1, Pinson (T); 2, Whittaker (T); 3, Page (K).
Time: 2 mins. 10 secs.

MILE

RELAYS

- Group A/B.—1, School; 2, Queens; 3, Kings.
Time: 61.5 secs.
Group C.—1, Queens; 2, School; 3, Kings.
Time: 90.8 secs.
Group D.—1, School; 2, Queens; 3, Kings.
Time: 1 min. 59 secs.
Group E.—1, Trinity; 2, Kings; 3, School.
Time: 4 mins. 9.2 secs.

HIGH JUMP

- Group A/B.—1, Withers (S); 2, Whittall (T); 3, Hingley (K).
Height: 3 ft. 10 ins.
- Group C.—1, Billingham (S); 2, Percival (Q) 3, Beard (Q).
Height: 4 ft. 3 ins.
- Group D.—1, Bywater (T); 2, Hall (Q), Webb (Q).
Height: 4 ft. 8 ins. (Record).
- Group E.—1, Freeman (S); 2, Currier (S); 3, Newey (Q).
Height: 5 ft. 5½ ins. (Record).

LONG JUMP

- Group A/B.—1, Stalker (Q); 2, Chambers (K); 3, Hardy (T).
Distance: 12 ft. 4 ins.
- Group C.—1, Billingham (S); 2, Sadler (Q); 3, Swallow (Q).
Distance: 14 ft. 4 ins.
- Group D.—1, Jones (T); 2, Hughes (S); 3, Gethins (Q).
Distance: 14 ft. 2 ins.
- Group E.—1, Robertson H. (K); 2, Robertson G. (K); 3, Moore (S)
Distance: 16 ft. 6 ins.

THROWING THE JAVELIN

- Group A/B.—1, Elliott (S); 2, Chambers (K); 3, Ashcroft (K).
Distance: 80 ft. 7 ins.
- Group C.—1, Currier (S); 2, Robinson (S); 3, Smith (K).
Distance: 130 ft. 9 ins (Record).
- Group D.—1, Harvey (S); 2, Lane (Q); 3, Jackson (S).
Distance: 132 ft. (Record).
- Group E.—1, Spooner (K); 2, Stone (K); 3, Massey (Q).
Distance: 122 ft. 9 ins.

THROWING THE DISCUS

- Group C.—1, Haughton (Q); 2, Healey (K); 3, Currier (S).
Distance: 72 ft. 3½ ins.
- Group D.—1, Hall (Q); 2, Trevis (S); 3, Downing (K).
Distance: 85 ft. 5 ins.
- Group E.—1, Bristow (Q); 2, Spooner (K); 3, Holden (K).
Distance: 110 ft. 5 ins.

HOP, STEP AND JUMP

- Group C.—1, Billingham (S); 2, Parkes (T); 3, Gray (T).
Distance: 29 ft. 5 ins.
- Group D.—1, Hughes (S); 2, Hall (Q); 3, Grigg (S).
Distance: 28 ft. 11½ ins.
- Group E.—1, Freeman (S); 2, Hughes (T); 3, Moore (S).
Distance: 34 ft. 5½ ins.

PUTTING THE SHOT

Group A/B.—1, Stevenson (K); 2, Elliott (S); 3, Bayliss (K).
Distance: 25 ft. 11 ins.

Group C.—1, Currier (S); 2, Houghton (Q); 3, Harris (K).
Distance: 24 ft. 7 ins.

Group D.—1, Jackson (S); 2, Hipkiss (T); 3, Gethins (Q).
Distance: 30 ft. 7 ins.

Group E.—1, Page (K); 2, Lloyd (Q); 3, Spooner (K).
Distance: 31 ft. 4 ins.

A system of high and low standards gave every boy a chance to score points for his house during the season. In addition to these standards, points obtained by the victorious on Sports Day enabled a final result to be calculated which gave the championship to Queens House with 657 points; School were second with 621 points followed by Kings and Trinity with 562 and 513 points respectively. When individual points had been totalled, it was seen that Junior Champion was Billingham of School, Intermediate Champion was Harvey also of School and Pinson of Trinity and Page of Kings tied jointly for Senior Champion.

The school is proud to be able to state that Sports day 1959 was without rain, an achievement unequalled for some years.

Birmingham and District Sports Results.

The school was again represented at the meeting of the Birmingham Grammar Schools' Sports held at the University Track. Several standards were attained by the School and more confidence in performance should see the school with more honours in the following seasons.

K. C. Page, 6B.

BOYS' SWIMMING GALA.

THE Boys' Swimming Gala was held at Langley Baths on Wednesday, 8th July, 1959. Results were as follows:-

Junior Events.

- One length Free Style.—1, Bell (S); 2, Hadley (S); 3, Houghton (Q)
Time: 17 secs.
- One length Breast stroke.—1, Bayliss (K); 2, Swallow (Q); 3, Eaves (Q).
Time: 24.6 secs.
- One width Back Stroke.—1, Bell (S); 2, Hadley (S); 3, Ashcroft (K).
Time: 9 secs.
- One width Beginners.—1, Ashcroft K. (K); 2, Trueman (K); 3, Hatton (S).
Time: 10.5 secs.
- Dive.—1, Bell (S); 2, Swallow (Q); 3, Prideaux (S).
- 4 x One length Relay.—1, School; 2, Queens; 3, Kings.
Time: 77.58 secs.

Intermediate Events.

- Two lengths Free Style.—1, Hall (Q); 2, Harvey (S); 2, Mitchell (Q)
Time: 37.3 secs.
- Two lengths Breast Stroke.—1, Mitchell (Q); 2, Walker (S); 3, Grigg (S).
Time: 49.6 secs.
- One length Back Stroke.—1, Oakes (Q); 2, Smith (T); 3, Parker (Q)
Time: 20.4 secs.
- One width Beginners.—1, Robinson (S); 2, Crump (S); 3, Gray (T)
- Dive.—1, Hall (Q); 2, Currier (S); 3, Healey (K).
- 4 x one length Relay 1, Queens 2, Trinity; 3, School.
Time: 75.2 secs.

Senior Events.

- Three lengths Free Style.—1, Page (K); 2, Newell (T); 3, Trickett (T).
Time: 53.8 secs.
- Two lengths Breast Stroke.—1, Trickett (T); 2, Lloyd (Q); 3, Biddlestone (T).
Time: 43.8 secs.
- Two lengths Back Stroke.—1, Glover (Q); 2, Moore (K); 3, Ashwood (S).
Time: 46.2 secs.
- Plunge.—1, Upton (S); 2, Newell (T); 3, Biddlestone (T).
Distance: 40 ft. 8 ins.
- Dive.—1, Trickett (T); 2, Stevens (K); 3, Newell (T).
- Relay.—1, Queens; 2, Kings; 3, Trinity.
Time: 65.6 secs.

The final placings of the houses were School first with 39 points, Queens second with 38 points, and Kings and Trinity followed with 26 and 23 points respectively.

Individual champions were:-

Junior Champion: Bell (S) 9 points.

Runner-up: Ashcroft (K) 4 points.

Intermediate Champion: Hall (Q) 6 points.

Runner-up: Mitchell (Q) 4 points.

Senior Champion: Trickett (T) 7 points

Runner-up: Newell (T) 5 points.

FOOTBALL.

Captain: C. GLOVER.

Vice-Captain: D. MATTHEWS.

Secretary: T. B. J. HUGHES.

Results:

1st. XI. Played 21, Won 7, Lost 11, Drew 3. Goals for 58
Against 60.

2nd. XI. Played 17, Won 9, Lost 4, Drew 4, Goals for 66
Against 52.

Junior XI. Played 9, Won 7, Lost 1, Drew 1. Goals for 53.
Against 24.

Under 13½ XI. Played 9, Won 2, Lost 4, Drew 3. Goals for 29.
Against 36.

With the memory of the brilliant 1st XI of the 1957/8 football season fresh in everyone's mind, the 1st XI of this year had a high reputation to live up to. The majority of the team consisted of players without any previous 1st XI experience. Although some performances were rather disappointing, the team must be praised for its enthusiastic play.

Representative honours were gained by Aston who played regularly for Worcestershire 1st XI.

Colours were awarded to Aston and Matthews.

CRICKET SEASON 1959.

Captain: D. MATTHEWS.

Secretary: D. SPOONER.

Results:

1st. XI. Played 9, Won 1, Lost 3, Drew 5.

THE 1st XI did not have a very good season this year. They did, however, deserve at least three more wins but the opposing sides managed to keep their last few wickets intact

before stumps were drawn.

The batting was not stable enough again this year and often our team went to field having scored less than 60 runs.

The school did, however, beat the Parents by 5 wickets and so retained the shield, presented to the captain of the winning side on this occasion.

Topping the batting averages was Brown with an average of 14.6 and then Hughes with an average of 12.5.

The bowling was not as good as in previous years but all performed quite well. Spooner claimed 23 wickets at an average of 8.26 while Harris took 9 wickets for 89 runs, an average of 9.9.

Perhaps better results can be hoped for next season when the school play on the new composition wicket laid during this year.

Thanks must be accorded to both Mr. Hudson and Mr. James who gave so much of their time in coaching the school team.

No colours were awarded this season.

Other Cricket Results.

2nd. XI. Played 7, Won 1, Lost 3, Drew 3.

U 15 XI. Played 4, Won 1, Lost 2, Drew 1.

U 13 XI. Played 7, Won 3, Lost 3, Drew 1.

House Matches.

Kings were House Champions playing 3 and winning 3.

As the last match between Queens and Trinity was postponed the other houses could not be placed in second, third or fourth positions.

D. Spooner, 6A.

GYMNASTICS CLUB 1958-1959.

DURING the winter and spring terms of 1958-1959 a number of boys met after school on Friday evening for the 'Gym Club. Here, under Mr. Davies, and with Richard Currier taking over as captain from A. T. Harrold, many new exercises were tried and enjoyed.

Those attending the club progressed from one exercise to the next and many gained either the red, green or yellow stripes awarded when a series of exercises was completed. By attending, not only was a member's standard improved but also that of the members of his own form who would copy from him what he had learned. Some time was also spent either trying for stars—for outstanding ability—or in enjoying games or races.

This year there has been a rather slow start but with new members and more time we hope to build up and improve on previous years.

John Trickett, 5M.

THE CRESCONIANS.

President: DR. C. C. HOWARD.

Hon. Secretary: R. BROADERWICK, 40 Dog Kennel Lane, Oldbury.

Hon. Treasurer: AUDREY BRADLEY.

Hon. Asst. Secretary: D. WOOD.

MICHAEL TURNBULL, who has been the Secretary of the Cresconians throughout the 1950's decided not to stand at the last A.G.M. and Raymond Broaderwick was elected. Michael is still exceptionally keen and remains on the committee. He has clearly been the personification of all that has been good and worthwhile in Cresconians activities. Maurice Franks, his able lieutenant as Assistant Secretary for several years, has also given way. As a pair they have worked remarkably consistently on our behalf.

Maurice was largely responsible for the arrangements for the enjoyable evening when Mr. Billy Wright was invited to the School by the President. None of us knew quite what to expect and we were intrigued to see Miss Tweedie discussing the merits of the Wolves with England's Soccer captain. He will rarely meet such a searching test, and Nora Reynolds, the Girl Captain, also knew how to put a shrewd question or two. It was surprising to find the boys wrong-footed on this occasion but they did seem to flounder slightly in the highly competitive atmosphere even after the inspiring introductory summary of Mr. Wright's career from the President. Dr. Howard also welcomed another famous athlete to the School when Mike Rawson, the international runner, came to train the Cresconians footballers.

Derek Lee, who was at the School between 1939 and 1946, married with two children and working in government in Kenya, has written to Dr. Howard. He wrote last November, that they were still in Embu and expect to finish the tour there. This was fortunate because so many people in government were constantly moved from place to place. They live at 4,800 feet, thirty miles south of the Equator, in a wonderful climate. It is never unbearably hot, there is forty inches of rain annually, and the temperature is rarely below 60. Christmas in the sun is strange and exciting. They eat out-of-doors and dance while the children sleep in the car at the Christmas Eve party and on Christmas Day they go to the little family service held in the local African School and then return home to open presents heaped round the Christmas Tree.

Derek says that they think nothing of driving to Nairobi 85 miles away for a day's shopping along earth roads covered with a soft gravel which in dry weather covers them in red dust and, in wet weather, in mud. They have seen much of Kenya in 3 years most of which they have spent in the heart of a Native Reserve. The Europeans can be grouped in three ways, governmental, commercial, and the settler farmers. The Asians, who came originally as coolies to build the railways, stayed as traders and artisans. The Africans, backward in many ways, have progressed at a gallop politically and in Derek's experience they have been loyal, courteous, honest and great friends to the children. As yet they meet on a working basis but he trusts that eventually there will be mutual social activity. His parents live at 29, Valentine Road, Warley, Oldbury.

Dorothy Broaderwick has recently become a J.P., at a tender age, and it is possible that this honour, and her membership of the Townswomen's Guild, has influenced her to attempt to persuade us to devote more of our time to charitable purposes. The Mayor of Oldbury, Alderman Mrs. M. Gunn, a Cresconian, is probably the main driving force behind the committees organising the Borough of Oldbury's contribution to the World Refugee Fund. With the Mayor and Dorothy on our heels there is little doubt that we shall play our part in the organisation of a fête, a Carnival procession and Ball, and similar events. The five-a-side football competition on Easter Tuesday, 1960 is in the hands of the football section. With Bernard Rowley returning after ten years playing for Birmingham City, Hereford and others, this could be interesting.

"Quietly" but assuredly, the School Dance Orchestra has been developed by Mr. Eacott and on New Year's Eve they will provide music for dancing in the School Hall from 8 to 1 p.m.

The Cresconians deeply mourn the passing of Miss G. Jones and we sincerely sympathise with the School. It is impossible to describe how terribly upset so many of us have been. She was warm-hearted and kind, a lady to treasure in one's memory.

V .B. Hale.

WALKING AT SUNSET.

THERE is a loneliness, a mystery, about walking down a strange street at sunset. Whereas previously full and bright, civilized life becomes inexplicably jaded and sad while the scarlet sun sets rows of windows glinting.

Destiny and ambition seem at once the inspiration and degradation of existence. The glory of the skies lies with the petty prettiness of orderly houses.

Range upon range of fiercely burning eyes glow, momentarily transfixed in raptures, at the sun.

Now, as the flaming orb disappears in radiant triumph, their reflected dazzle dulls and pales until they regain their opaque and futile stare across the emptiness of the street.

There is an echo about one's footsteps down a strange street after sunset. The pavements linger over each vibration and dwell mutely, mysteriously, on every footfall. The lonesome blackness of the windows loses itself in the shadow of evening.

Marion B. Jones, 5G.

NIGHTFALL.

DIM in the east the ruined city lies
Purple against paler purple skies,
Slender palms and minarets arise
Into the night.

The sands are soft, by desert winds caressed
Into a thousand ripples. Here I rest
And watch the flaming scarlet of the west
Fade into night.

Gloom falls apace, and silence spreads afar,
The purple sky grows black as sets the evening star,
Now falls the deep calm peace that nought may mar
This night of nights.

Chloë Daniels, 6A.

TWILIGHT.

THE blazing sun retires into a softer hue as the twilight falls. Its crimson rays colour the sky around it as it gradually sinks below the horizon. Peace reigns after the noisy hustle of the day, and the solitary shepherd trudges, along dusty paths, homewards. The birds twitter from tree to tree occasionally alighting on a wavering branch. The setting sun reflects on each tiny ripple

across the wide expanse of meandering river. The silhouettes of the stately trees are seen against the soft hue of the sky. The silence is broken only by the noise of the crickets hidden in the rustling grasses bordering the river. Dusk is gradually falling, enveloping the countryside in a serene calm.

Joan Hammond 3C.

EDITORIAL.

THE success or failure of any magazine depends on the enthusiasm of its contributors; we thank all those who submitted contributions, and congratulate the following on efforts which nearly earned them a place in the magazine:

Roger Bird, M. Bragg, Susan Brazier, P. J. Cheese, D. Clarke, Margaret Clarke, Penelope Daniels, Rosemarie Darlington, S. Edwards, Sally Evans, Christine Foster, Joan Glaze, M. Goode, Angela Grant, Keith Grinnell, J. Harris, F. Harvey, Joan Hope, Mavis Howell, Robert Jones, Sheena Lowe, Judith Male, Christine Norris, Carol Oakes, John Palmer, Jean Pardoe, Lois Partidge, Brian Percival, David Smith, Nora Smith, Y. Smith, Martin Stevenson, J. Swallow, Michael Truman, Lynn Valentine, Brenda Walter, Elaine Whittaker, Roger Whittaker, Peter Withers.