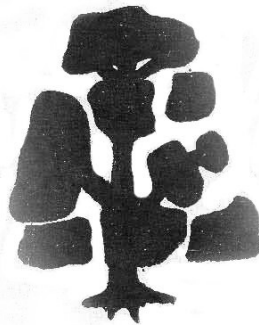

ROTHWELL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

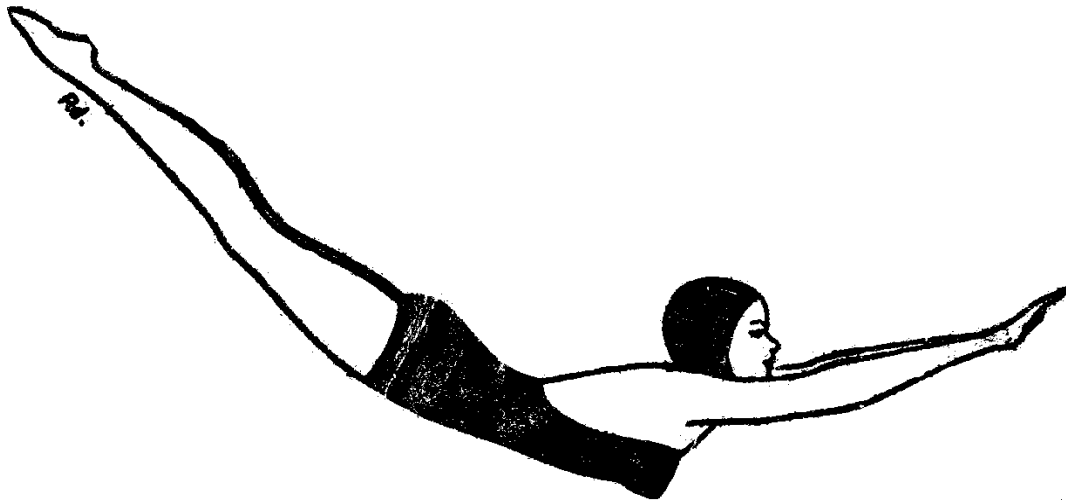
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MAGAZINE

JUNE 1955



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Rothwell Grammar School

1955

JUNE

1955

STAFF NOTES

Our numbers over the past two or three years have been such that the county agreed to the appointment of an additional member of staff. Mr. Donald Wade, B.Sc., was appointed to teach mathematics and physics. Just before the end of May, Mr. Moore secured another teaching appointment, and Mr. Hever secured an appointment in commerce. We have not yet secured a replacement for Mr. Moore, but Mr. Hever's successor has been appointed, Mr. Tordoff, B.A., a new entrant to the profession. Mr. Wade and Mr. Tordoff have our best wishes for a successful career with us and we welcome them heartily.

Mr. Hever joined us in January, 1948. He took a leading part in our Lakes walking camps and in Field Studies Camps. He was a standby in staff dramatics, producing "Dr. Knock" and acting in "When We Are Married," "You Never Can Tell," "The Importance of Being Earnest" and other plays. He has also been the bridge specialist of the staffroom.

Mr. Moore will be much missed. Not only is he a very good teacher of his subject but he has, in a quiet way, done much for the life of the school.

They carry with them our best wishes for the future.

We are also glad to be able to congratulate Mrs. Shaw, until recently the school secretary, on the birth of a son.

We are pleased to welcome back Miss Silvester after a long illness. She has been sadly missed and we hope that she will have good health for the future.

We were very grateful to Christine Sidebottom, an ex-pupil, who has been helping us out during Miss Silvester's absence.

CHOIRS

The Choirs have given several concerts this year at Wakefield, Outwood and Lofthouse. The Mixed Choir have worked very well together and at times their performances have almost reached the high standard set by the Girls' Choir. It has been encouraging to find several boys willing and very able to sing solos and duets along with the girls.

Barry Booth has again given invaluable support as accompanist.

J B

HOLLAND TRIP, 1955

Fifteen of us set off for Hull from Methley Junction at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 28th May against a strong head wind. The crossing to Rotterdam was calm. We were two hours behind scheduled time in leaving the dock and made fast time to Gouda where a most obliging policeman in mufti volunteered to guide us through a maze of streets, canals and meres to our first hostel, which we reached to a froggy orchestra.

Next day we rode to Amsterdam, much of the way beside a wide canal which reflected the beautiful sunshine. In Amsterdam we broke up to shop gaze, visit the Ryks museum, etc., and to make the waterbus tour of the town and harbour. We spent that night at Broek-in-Waterland; then had a long ride against a consistent head wind which was particularly trying across the 24 miles dyke which cuts off the Zuider Zee from the North Sea. We slept at Heeg, a charming hostel, to reach which we had to cross a ferry. The hostel stands on a wide canal within a short distance of the vast expanse of the Heegerzee. We prepared 103 potatoes next morning on a landing stage with the ducks eagerly consuming the scraps. From Heeg we rode back to Sneek, where we broke up, meeting again at Steynwijk. We visited Grethorn and made the rond vaart (round trip) of this lovely village and its mere in an ancient flatboat with an outboard motor, meeting little fleets of minute ducklings, swans with their cygnets, parties of coots, and a heron or two, and saw hay being brought home in barges from the meadows.

Leaving Grethorn, we were misled by a brand-new autobahn not on our map and were staggered to find ourselves at Blokzyl on the edge of the new North East Polder. We cut back through Volenhove, a fish village now surrounded by dry land, and reached Meppel a little late and received a wiggling from the lady warden.

From Meppel we rode to Arnhem through forests where the scent of the pines was a sharp contrast with the wafts of creamy air that came from the herds of cows in the water meadows on early days. Next day we visited the open air museum and entered some of the very interesting period houses re-erected there. Then we stopped for a couple of hours before visiting the Airborne Cemetery.

The thirty miles run from Arnhem to Amersfoort, most of it through forest country, was covered in two hours with a helpful wind which sent us spinning happily along the shadow-dappled cycle paths. We had a splendid run on Saturday morning, from Amersfoort as far as Gouda, where we halted to buy a set of pictures for Mr. Vaughan, who

could not bear that we should not at least glance at the home town of Erasmus. Then our luck deserted us momentarily. A member of the party went on without making his intention clear. When he was not found outside the town, two of us returned to our halting place in Gouda and one of them experienced a badly burst tyre. Then another member of the party had a heavy fall due to a collision. We survived these contretemps and the re-united party were at the docks before the first real rainfall began.

Impressions! The kindness of the Dutch people, the speed and cheapness of cycle repairs, the richness of the pasture lands and the number of dairy herds, the cleanliness and colourfulness of the houses, the roughness of some of the roads and cycle tracks, the friendliness of the hostels and, last in time but not least in permanency, the appalling stench of the between deck accommodation when we embarked. What a stench! Years of vomit, paint, oil, mixed cargoes of onions and other vegetables, perspiration and porridge all battened down without ventilation! Fortunately the weather was fine and the hatches were opened after we sailed.

It was a most interesting and enjoyable trip. The conditions were consistently good and the party behaved as a real team.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

After much work by a few of our members, the Dark Room has been restocked with necessary chemicals and clean apparatus. Our enlarger is still under construction, and has recently been fitted with a new lens. It still seems somewhat surprising that we have so few members considering the popularity of the hobby.

B.W. (Secretary).

CHESS CLUB

During the past six months, the Chess Club has continued to flourish, the team playing matches against Wakefield, Thornes House and St. Michael's and a game against Mr. Ives, who played the whole team simultaneously, winning six of his eight boards.

Next year, new members from the first forms are expected, and the enthusiasm of the fourth and fifth year members is guaranteed to produce a better team.

C. BLACK (Secretary).

ROTHWELL G.S.

'WHEN WE ARE MARRIED'

by J. B. Priestley

Ruby Birtle Miss P. Anderson
Gerald Forbes Mr. A. Hever
Mrs. Northrop Mrs. D. Taylor
Nancy Holmes Miss I. Ingle
Fred Dyson Mr. L. Hobson
Henry Ormonroyd Mr. F. A. Booth
Alderman Joseph Helliwell Mr. J. A. Porter
Maria Helliwell Mrs. M. A. Leach
Councillor Albert Parker Mr. P. Hastings
Annie Parker Miss E. Dean
Herbert Soppitt Mr. J. Holmes
Clara Soppitt Miss D. Simpson
Lottie Grady Mrs. M. Hargreaves
Reverend Clement Mercer Mr. K. E. Waite

Producer: Mr. E. R. Manley.

Stage Managers: Messrs. A. Leach, E. Kirby, D. G. Morris.

Make-up: Mr. E. R. Shaw.

Business Manager: Miss J. Blakey.

The Staff's latest dramatic venture, the Yorkshire farce "When We Are Married," by J. B. Priestley, more than maintained the high standard of production and performance for which Mr. Manley and his staff have come to be noted.

Although several late changes were necessitated by illness, the casting was well done. Mr. Porter as Joseph Helliwell, the Alderman proud of his respectability and his influence in the Chapel, yet not too respectable to carry on an illicit love affair, gave a first rate performance, as indeed did the whole cast. The pompous Councillor Albert Parker was ably played by Mr. Hastings, who succeeded fully in characterising one who said too much, too often; whilst Mr. Holmes, as Herbert Soppitt, revealed a wealth of common sense beneath a veneer of stupidity.

The wives of this trio also possessed sharply contrasting characteristics. Maria Helliwell, wife of Alderman Helliwell, was well portrayed by Mrs. Leach, whilst Miss Simpson as Clara Soppitt, the domineering wife of Herbert Soppitt, proud of her position but ashamed of her early environment, achieved an effective contrast, with Miss Dean as Annie Parker, the quiet, kind hearted, understanding wife of Albert Parker.

The minor characters of the play were equally well cast and acted. Mr. Booth gave a convincing impression of the drunken photographer, Henry Ormonroyd, whose philosophy of life is live and let live; Fred Dyson, a jovial reporter who shared his companion's taste for alcohol, was competently played by Mr. Hobson. Mrs. Hargreaves, as Lottie Grady, displayed a fund of good nature and a love of life which one can contrast sharply with the sweet simplicity of Nancy Holmes, played by Irene Ingle. Mr. Hever, as Gerald Forbes, the chapel organist and husband-to-be of Nancy, was successful in revealing a southern detachment and an amusement at northern characteristics. Mrs. Taylor excellently portrayed Mrs. Northrop, who has a strong disregard for social standing but a submissive respect for the clergy in the person of the Reverend Clement Mercer, played by Mr. Waite. Last, but by no means least, Miss Anderson as the maid, Ruby Birtle, achieved a competence which was consistent with the whole tone of the performance.

The author's broad humour was clearly appreciated by the cast who gave the appearance at least of having enjoyed playing roles to which they are totally unaccustomed. It is also to their credit, and more so to their producer, that the actors were consistent and harmonious in their Yorkshire accents—a rare achievement in amateur productions.

H.T.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The third Annual Dinner of the Sixth Form Discussion Group was held early last term. It is an occasion to which all members look forward and there was a good attendance despite the bad weather. We welcomed amongst our past members Mr. Cresswell and Mr. Otter.

The toasts and speakers were:—

The School: Mr. M. J. Canham; Mr. H. C. Vaughan.

The Discussion Group: Miss I. P. Ingle; Mr. K. Chattoe.

Guests and Past Members: Mr. H. Tolley; Mr. H. S. Otter

Sir Walter Raleigh: Miss E. Conner; Mr. E. Caines.

The Group, however, has not been too active this term, as other social functions in school have prevented our meetings. G. Webster addressed the group on "Space Travel" and the discussion which followed proved interesting but rather technical for the arts people. D. Newton acted as chairman confidently.

I. P. INGLE (Hon. Secretary).

HOUSE FESTIVAL

Final placings and points:

Nightingale 119½ pts., Faraday 86 pts., Livingstone 80 pts.,
Grenfell 62 pts.

House Choirs:

1st, Faraday (conducted by B. Booth); 2nd, Nightingale
(conducted by P. Buckley and I. Ingle); 3rd, Living-
stone (conducted by M. Chappell)

House Quiz:

1st, Grenfell; 2nd, Faraday; 3rd, Nightingale.

House Speaking Teams:

1st year: 1st, Faraday; 2nd, Livingstone; 3rd, Grenfell
and Nightingale (tie).

2nd year: 1st, Faraday; 2nd, Nightingale; 3rd Grenfell.

3rd year: 1st, Nightingale; 2nd, Livingstone; 3rd, Gren-
fell.

4th year: 1st, Grenfell; 2nd, Nightingale; 3rd, Faraday.

5th year: 1st, Livingstone; 2nd, Grenfell and Nightingale
(tie). Faraday awarded merit points.

6th year: 1st, Faraday; 2nd, Nightingale; 3rd, Living-
stone and Grenfell (tie).

Recitation:

1st Forms: P. Rouse, W. Thompson, K. Broadhead.

2nd Forms: P. Sykes, M. Naylor, M. Brown.

3rd Forms: M. Taylor, M. Carney, B. Vaughan.

4th Forms: W. Whitley, D. Naylor, C. Ridyard.

5th Forms: P. Gibson, N. Kale, A. Wigglesworth.

6th Forms: E. Caines, H. Tolley, M. Bower.

Verse Speaking:

1st Forms: D. Williams, M. Gilbertson, J. Illingworth.

2nd Forms: S. Atkinson, P. Sykes, A. Dunbar and J. Firth
(tie).

3rd Forms: P. Audsley, M. Taylor, M. Owen.

4th Forms: W. Whitley, S. Robinson, J. Banks.

5th Forms: J. Dale, P. Barber, M. Chappell.

6th Forms: J. N. Firth, D. Newton, R. Jenkinson and D.
Free (tie).

Impromptu Speaking:

1st and 2nd Forms: M. Chattoe, G. Wilkinson, A. Tatters-
field.

3rd and 4th Forms: C. Ward, K. Newbould, R. Porter.

5th and 6th Forms: J. Moss, E. Conner, M. Wilson.

German Speaking and Recitation:

2nd Forms: S. Atkinson, J. Firth, D. Wild.

3rd and 4th Forms: B. Smith, P. Audsley, G. Dixon.

5th and 6th Forms: K. Hardman, E. Hudson, N. Kale.

Pianoforte Solo:

Junior: E. Saville.

Intermediate: M. Fox.

Senior: B. Booth.

Singing:1st and 2nd Forms girls solo: M. Naylor, A. Callaghan, C
Grainger and J. Harrison (tie).3rd and 4th Forms girls solo: D. Hartlev, J. Johnson, G.
Dixon.

5th and 6th Forms girls solo: I. Ingle, P. Buckley.

Junior boys solo: G. Birkett, P. Sykes, B. Sefton.

Senior boys solo: B. Ward, I. Bellas, R. Cannon.

Junior duet: J. Johnson and P. Shirley.

Senior duet: P. Buckley and I. Ingle.

Art:

1st and 2nd Forms: F. Thackeray, J. Appleyard.

3rd and 4th Forms: K. Brown, T. Firth, M. Musgrave.

5th and 6th Forms: P. Boulton, E. Robinson.

Model Aircraft:

Junior: M. Womack, B. R. Hall, D. Williams.

Senior: C. Bates, M. Atack.

Modelling:

Junior: P. Sykes, B. R. Hall.

Senior: F. Sheard, C. Bates.

Embroidery:

1st and 2nd Forms: S. Egglestone, M. Hall, I. Neil.

3rd and 4th Forms: J. Howell, G. Dixon, P. Naylor.

Chess Tournament:

1st, Nightingale; 2nd, Faraday; 3rd, Livingstone.

DREAMER

I lie in my bed and I hear in the street
 The people passing by;
 The slow, the quick, the limping feet:
 And I see a bit of the sky.
 The wind is there, and the stars are bright,
 The clouds are hurrying by;
 I should like to ride on the wind at night,
 Ever so fast and high!
 The fairies may go, and the witches too,
 But children must stay in bed,
 How I wish we had magical brooms,
 To ride on the wind instead.

V. Halford (Form I).

**THE PASTONS
CAST**

BERNEY	W. Whitley
DAUBENEY	B. Ward
RICHARD CALLE	M. Wilson
AGNES PASTON	Stella Ward
MARGARET PASTON	Joan Cowling
ELSPETH	Pauline Buckley
Sir THOMAS HOWARD	P. D. Longley
HEYDON	D. Free
LIPYATE	C. G. Webster
First Archer	S. T. Firth
Second Archer	D. Thresh
Third Archer	T. Cassidy
Cook	J. H. Chandler
MARGERY PASTON	Pauline Robinson
ANNE PASTON	Anita Burton
Dame HATCH	Margery Bramley
HOB	B. Watson
APPLEGARTH	C. Black
ANNE HAULTE	Eileen Conner
Cook	G. Barker
Singer	J. Mellor
Sir JOHN PASTON	R. Cannon
EDWARD IV	R. Jenkinson
EARL of WARWICK	I. Bellas
DUKE of GLOUCESTER	P. Harvey
DUKE of NORFOLK	F. Sheard
Master BEST	H. Tolley
Mistress BEST	Louie Holdway
Maid	Dorothy Watson
Mayor	J. M. Firth
Bishop	B. Booth
Chaplain	M. Bower
CLOPTON	B. Storey
WHEELWRIGHT	A. Thompson

Soldiers, Scullions, Headsman:—

M. Haigh, C. Smith, A. Field, J. Hall, L. Appleyard,
J. Binks, D. Naylor, J. Spann, N. Taylor.

This year the Sixth Form presented "The Pastons," written and produced by our Headmaster, Mr. E. R. Manley.

All the actors played their parts with enthusiasm and the diction and audibility were very good. Michael Wilson played the part of Richard Calle, a bailiff of unusual skill and loyalty, and was obviously worthy of the love of Margery Paston, portrayed by Pauline Robinson, whose passionate outbursts only served to emphasize the gentle dignity she gave to the part. As her mother, Joan Cowling gave us a

good portrait of a calculating and disdainful member of the aristocracy. As Anne Paston, Anita Burton demonstrated the same qualities, while Stella Ward had more reasoning than drama in her part as Agnes Paston.

As leaders of the opposition to the Paston family, Sir Thomas Howard was given a proud and arrogant character by Peter Longley, but David Free showed us a Heyden more impulsive and perhaps less courageous, and Gerald Webster gave a delightful portrait of the timid and insidious Lipyate. As their spy, Pauline Buckley acted with a saucy insolence.

Edward IV, played by Robert Jenkinson, was shown as a relentless sovereign with a keen perception of affairs. In opposition, Ivor Bellas presented a Machiavellian portrait of the Earl of Warwick. Peter Harvey was a blood-thirsty but loyal Duke of Gloucester and Frank Sheard a flustered and frustrated Duke of Norfolk. Roy Cannon portrayed Sir John Paston as one of little understanding but general goodwill. As Anne Haulte, Eileen Conner provided agreeable hospitality for the nobles in an engaging manner.

Harry Tolley convinced the audience of the numerous problems and great responsibilities of Master Best, while Louie Holdway acted as a patient and long-suffering wife. Dorothy Watson gave a charming performance as a pert serving maid with a paragon of an aged relative. Her final capture of the hearty, ever-hungry Daubeney given both comedy and sincerity by Barry Ward, provided excellent entertainment.

Michael Firth sorrowfully showed us the anxieties of being Mayor of Norwich in troubled times, while Malcolm Bower instructed us in the material rights of the Church, and Barry Booth amusingly illustrated the problems of combining religious principles with the instinct of self-preservation.

In the minor parts, Barry Storey was a sturdy Clopton, and William Whitley a trusty Berney. Marjorie Bramley was horrifyingly gruesome as Dame Hatch and J. Mellor an entertaining singer. Watson, Black and Thompson were efficient in their respective parts of Hob, Applegarth and Wheelwright. Other parts were acted with zeal by Fourth Form boys.

Much of the success of the play depended upon the realistic scenery and costumes. Grateful thanks for these are due to Miss Dean and Mr. Shaw. The efficient staging of the play was dependent upon Mr. Leach, Mr. Morris and Mr. Kirby. But the real success of the play was the result of enthusiastic and efficient team work by all helpers.

J. Moss (Form VI Arts).



CROSS-ROADS

D. Hartley (Form III)

RUGBY

The team was more successful in the Spring Term, being undefeated. The most notable victories were those recorded against Crossley and Porter (previously undefeated for two seasons) by 20-5, and against a strong West Leeds XV by 11-8. The season ended with a hard-fought battle in which the Old Boys were held for the first time in the history of the school.

The School maintained its reputation for 7-a-side football by reaching the semi-final of the Ilkley Tournament. Conditions were atrocious but the team played attractively throughout.

Full Colours were awarded to H. Tolley, E. Caines, I. F. Taylor, P. D. Longley, P. G. Harvey and R. Jenkinson.

Half-colours were awarded to R. A. Gregg and K. Hardman.

RESULTS—SPRING TERM

1st XV

v. Hemsworth	Home	Won	21-0
v. West Leeds	Home	Won	11-8
v. Crossley and Porter	Away	Won	20-5
v. Otley	Away	Won	30-0
v. Huddersfield Colts	Home	Won	29-0
v. Sandal	Away	Won	19-0
v. Old Boys	Home	Draw	8-8
Played 22, Won 18, Lost 2, Drawn 2, Points for 364, against 127			

ILKLEY "SEVENS"

1st Round v. Cleckheaton	Won	14-0
2nd Round v. Scarborough	Won	5-0
3rd Round v. Roundhay	Won	8-0
Semi-Final v. Wakefield	Lost	0-8

2nd XV

v. Hemsworth	Home	Lost	0-5
v. Heath	Home	Draw	6-6

COLTS

v. Bradford	Home	Lost	8-9
v. Roundhay	Away	Won	6-3
v. Cleckheaton	Away	Lost	12-13

CROSS COUNTRY

1st Livingstone; 2nd Faraday and Grenfell (tie).

First three places.

Junior: 1st, D. Stout (G.); 2nd, K. Bennett (N.); 3rd, M. Bulmer (F.).

Intermediate: 1st, T. Cassidy (G.); 2nd, D. Thresh (L.); 3rd, G. Binks (F.).

Senior: 1st, K. Hardman (L.); 2nd, R. Cannon (L.); 3rd, H. Tolley (F.).

ATHLETIC SPORTS

Sports Day, May 19th. 1955

Final House Positions:—

1. Livingstone	487	
2. Nightingale	313	} tie
Grenfell	313	
4. Faraday	308	

Victores Ludorum

	Boys	Girls
Senior	P. Harvey (N.)	E. Conner (N.)
Intermediate	H. Tolley (F.)	} tie M. Whitworth (N.)
	K. Wilcock (L.)	
Junior	K. Howe (F.)	M. Smith (L.)

WAKEFIELD SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

At the Wakefield and District Athletics Meeting held on 25th May, 1955, we had several successes:—

Boys

Under 13: High jump, K. Howe, 4ft. 5in.

Under 17: Javelin, D. Thresh; 880 yards, K. Hardman.

Under 19: Long jump, D. Thresh; Discus, B. Ward; Javelin, D. Fox.

Girls

Under 15: 150 yards, M. Whitworth.

Under 17: 100 yards, E. Connor; Discus, M. Walker; Long jump, R. Cooper.

Under 19: Javelin, P. Gibson.

All the above, except K. Howe (there are no under 13 classes) were chosen to represent Wakefield and District at the Yorkshire Schools Athletic Championships at Bradford on June 11th. E. Robinson, whose time for the 100 yards was very good, was also chosen.

This year we had our best results in these Championships, with 2 firsts, P. Gibson, Senior Girls Javelin, 89ft. 2in., and P. Harvey, Senior Boys Long jump, 19ft. 0in., and two seconds, D. Fox, in the Senior Boys Javelin (161ft. 3in., only 7in. behind the winner) and K. Hardman, in the Intermediate 880 yards. (2 min. 5 sec., the same time as the winner).

HOCKEY

			1st XI	2nd XI
Jan. 29.	v. Castleford	Home	Won 8-3	Won 6-2
Feb. 5.	v. Heckmondwike	Home	Won 4-0	Won 3-1
Mar. 23.	v. Pudsey	Away	Lost 0-4	
Apr. 2.	v. Batley	Home	Won 4-3	Won 4-3

Nine matches were cancelled because of bad weather.

GAMES AND PARENTS

Many parents are very understanding about sport at school, but there are a certain few who are not. One mother, who will remain nameless, thinks that it is not a young girl's or a young woman's job to be "shinning up a rope like a monkey," and that a woman should be dignified and grow a little plump in her middle age instead of being "just muscle."

I remember once a rather prim and proper elderly lady coming to our house and asking me which lesson I enjoyed best. I think that she fully expected me to reply "Mathematics" or "Latin," but when I promptly told her that games was my favourite subject she seemed very shocked. This lady tut-tutted for quite a while, and seemed disgusted at the thought of a young girl racing around in a pair of shorts which showed far too much of her legs.

I expect she was thinking of what she did when she was a young girl. Embroidery, I believe, was the "sport" of her days. One must admit, however, that young girls of seventy years ago had more patience than the modern, harum-scarum young miss of today. Some of the needlework done by children as young as seven years is very beautiful and many of us in our 'teens gaze with awe upon the splendid work.

I remember after winning an event at sports day, I rushed home to tell my mother the good news, but all the congratulations that I received from her were that I should pay more attention to my school work instead of jumping over a silly bar.

Fathers, however, are usually more understanding as they were often in the school cricket or football teams. Perhaps if there had been more facilities for our mothers, they would be more understanding and sympathetic when we are stiff after an exhilarating afternoon's sport.

S. Robinson (Form IV).

SOUR GRAPES

One day, a hungry tramp was trudging wearily along a dusty road when a delicious smell came floating through the air. He traced it to a pie which had been left on a window ledge to cool.

A look of greed came into the tramp's eyes. No one noticed him as he crept along behind the hedge but as soon as he laid a finger on the pie, a white tornado which turned out to be a bulldog came streaking out from behind a bush and its jaws closed on his hand.

The tramp let out a yell that could be heard all over the village and dashed away as fast as he could.

"Pies! Bah!" he said. J. Clayborough (Form I).

ON TAKING THE "AWARD OF MERIT"

I took one deep breath, counted three and opened the door which led into the baths. On an event like this, one's first instinct is to look around the bath for the examiner, I did, and to my horror I saw him. He was surveying some pink entry forms with a critical eye. To an ordinary person in possession of his right mind he would have looked a neat, well dressed man of perhaps five feet nine inches in height, but to me he looked like a man-eating monster who had never passed anyone in an examination in his life.

I picked a cubicle and changed into the necessary clothes. The baths were quite full that day and I was unable to escape rude remarks about my attire as I stepped on to the edge of the bath wearing a bedraggled pair of trousers, a torn shirt, a moth-eaten waistcoat and a bright red tie.

The instructor found me a patient whom he told me to tow the full length of the bath. I waited for the examiner's signal, drew a deep breath and plunged into the freezing water. As it saturated my clothes I felt as though I were being dragged to the bottom. I towed my patient for what seemed a mile, swallowing water continually, and was glad of a short rest. I watched the examiner's expressionless face as he wrote on the pink form.

In no time at all he gave the signal and I was off again, toiling through a battling sea for twenty seven lengths in three different styles. I survived the first nine and was glad to turn on my back and glide nine long lengths. The remaining nine were no rest at all—back crawl and one long sprint to the finish.

I staggered out of the water as the walls spun around my buzzing head. By now I had lost my nervousness. For that at least I was thankful. Before I could breathe normally again I was treading water, tearing off my reluctant clothes; this was all part of the examination and I was not going crazy.

And so it went on. I swam backwards, I swam sideways, I swam upside down, I sculled, I plunged, until finally I was told to climb to the top board and perform a neat dive. I climbed, I took the correct stance, I paused for a minute. Thoughts flashed through my mind: "Another minute and it's all over," "this is your last, so make it good." I drew my breath and leaped into the air. I went limp, flopped head first into the water like a jelly and felt like staying on the bottom.

Dragging myself out of the bath, I looked at the examiner. He greeted me with a beaming smile.

S. Terry Firth (Form IVa).

THE SEASIDE

It was a lovely day. The sands and streets were packed with happy holiday-makers.

On the sands little children could be seen building sand castles and decorating them with gaily-coloured flags. One little boy was enjoying himself very much having a donkey ride. Round the ice-cream stall children could be seen waiting impatiently until it was their turn to buy their cornets or sandwiches.

On the blue sea the white sails of yachts could be seen. Children thronged the sea, some swimming and some paddling, all enjoying themselves. On the quay a few people were fishing. In the amusement arcades people were enjoying themselves on the machines, some winning, some losing. The gay, lovely music filled the air.

A delicious sweet smell of rock met me as I walked farther down the street past a stall full of gaily-striped rock and candy. At the other side of the street, crabs, mussels and oysters were for sale. In the shops there were swimming costumes, swimming caps and big, bouncy beach balls.

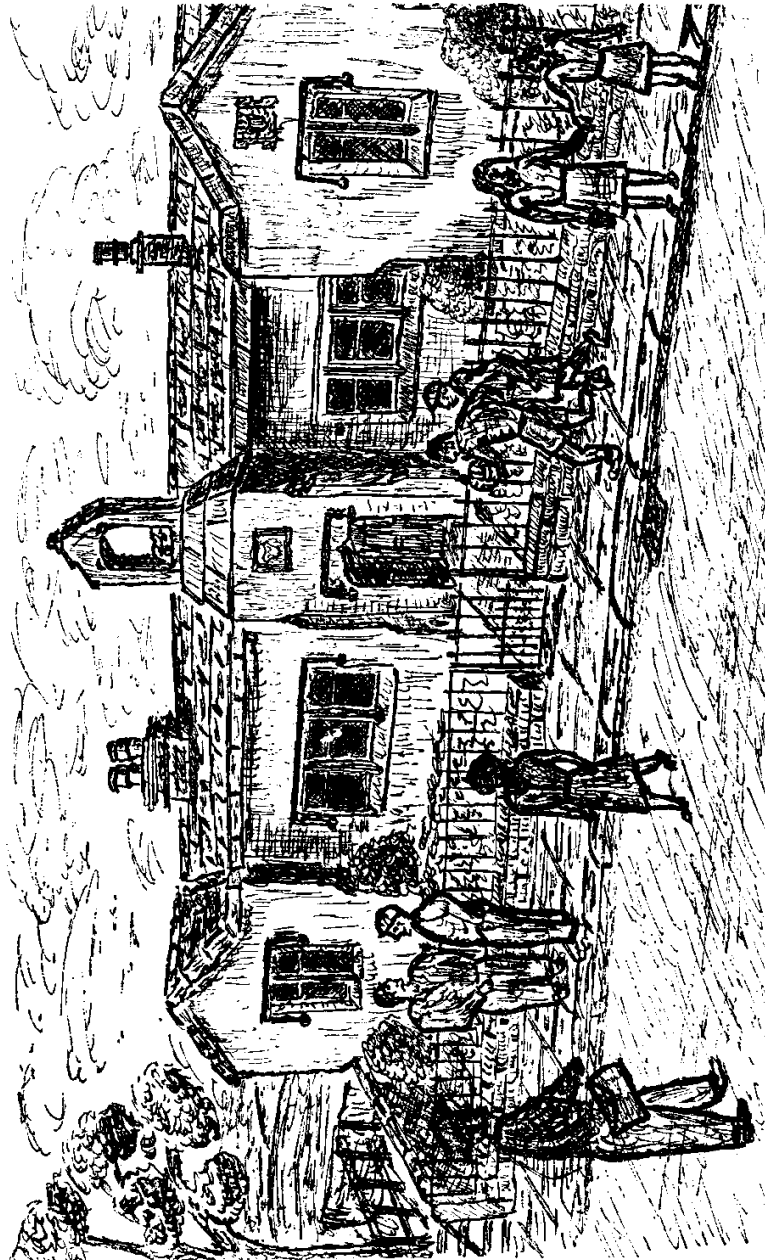
It is nearly tea-time and the streets and sands are slowly being deserted as the people go back to their lodgings. Soon there is nobody on the sands or in the street and the moon shines brightly over the quiet town.

A. Hemsworth (Form Ia).

A MISTRESS FOR CRACKERS

A tiny spry girl skipped on to the bus. She was going for her first riding lesson. She wore a bright canary yellow polo-necked jumper, with well cut fawn gaberdine jodhpurs. On a head of fair, curly hair was perched a black velvet jockey cap. She was very excited and her observant blue eyes roved the bus. She had a shining suntanned face almost covered with freckles. Her even pearly teeth flashed as she besieged her mother with questions about the pony she declared she would call "Crackers." Her hot hand clutched a crop which was in almost everyone's eyes at the same time. When she arrived at her destination she hopped off the bus. The last I saw of her she was flicking a fleck of dust off her bright brown riding boots with a green handkerchief.

C. Sykes (Form IIIb).



OULTON SCHOOL

B. Daniels (Form IV)

MY COUSIN

He came into my bedroom, his face shining and his blue eyes twinkling.

"Mike and I are going to do it," he said in his persuasive tone.

"Are you?" I said in awe.

Jonathan stood there in the doorway. His hair was nearly white, his face bore a grin, for he was most happy when in mischief, as he always has been during the six years of his life.

There he stood dressed in pyjamas. He had nothing on his feet as usual and one hand strayed to the cord of his trousers. It was perfectly tight but he had to hold them up. He is small and has a fair complexion and rosy cheeks. His face nearly always wears an impish grin as if he had prepared a joke for someone.

At last I decided to give in and followed him to where his elder brother was busy making an apple-pie bed for Pat.

Wendy Thompson (Form I).

SUNSHINE

The clouds in the sky go hurrying by,
 The water glitters and glimmers.
 The pigs in the field are munching near by,
 While the cars on the road shine and shimmer.
 Birds in the trees show their plumes to the sun,
 The smoke from the chimneys shines white.
 The children play, and skip and run
 Out in the bright sunlight.

Josephine Reid (Form I).

A SPRING EVENING

It was a lovely Spring evening as I wandered through the wood. The birds were singing their final song, high up in the tree tops. A skylark rose into the air from the ground nearby, then gracefully descended. The trees swayed gently in the cool evening breeze. A rabbit shot across the path in front of me as it hurried to its burrow. Many beautiful flowers were growing around, but the blue-bells which carpeted the ground outshone them all.

The tiny brook in the hollow chattered over the pebbles to meet the swiftly-flowing river. The clear rippling water was cool after the warmth of the day.

As I neared the edge of the wood I heard faintly the congregation in the church singing their final hymn. All was peaceful except for the fluttering of occasional leaves.

C. Featherstone (Form Ia).

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CALENDAR

Summer Holiday, 20th July—4th September.

Christmas Term, 5th September—20th December.

13th September, P.T.A. "At Home," Annual General Meeting and Film Show.

October—Lecture by William Bowes, Esq. (Bill Bowes). "The Australian Tour."

22nd—30th October—Half-term.

9th November—Speech Day.

9th November—Lecture by Brian Fawcett, Esq., on Brazil.

November—Parents' Social.

December—Christmas Concert.

Christmas Holiday, 21st December—8th January.

Easter Term, 9th January—28th March.

18th January—Lecture by Major W. T. Blake on Thailand.

Easter Holiday, 29th March—8th April.

Summer Term, 9th April—26th July.

IMPOSITION FOR FORGETFULNESS

What a grand thing it must be to have a good memory! The fortunate people who never forget what they are supposed to do are seldom in trouble. They never arrive at the maths lesson with an English book under their arm, or stand in the gymnasium waiting for Physical Training to begin without their shorts. These lucky people do not spend their pocket money on library fines; they always remember when to change their books. The forgetful person gazes wearily into his satchel realising that once again his much-needed books for his homework are safely locked away in his desk at school, while his anxious parents dash frantically down to the telephone box to enquire once again if his football boots have been found on the bus. The person with a good memory has no difficulty in learning his lessons. He knows where to put the rivers on his map or that the Battle of Hastings was in 1066. It is a joy to him to learn pages of poetry and recite them next day in class.

A good memory is also useful at home. A boy with a good memory does not go to the shop for a loaf of bread and come back home with a large bag of bull's-eyes, or come out of the bathroom with his neck still dirty. When wanting a game of cricket he does not spend his precious spare time searching the house from attic to cellar looking for his bat and ball for he knows that they are in the coal shed.

Perhaps some unpleasant things are better forgotten, and the boy with the poor memory is the lucky one. He may even have forgotten to write these lines!

A. Dunbar (Form II).

WEATHERS

This is the weather the cricketers like
 And so do I.
 When Test Match commentaries come over the mike
 And umpires cry.
 When the cuckoo calls, glad tidings he brings,
 And every lark flies high and sings,
 And all the children do leaps and springs,
 And so do I.

This is the weather the gardeners hate.
 And so do I.
 When robins sit lonesome without a mate
 And away they fly.
 The snow has come, the frost is here,
 Not many creatures now appear;
 They all need warmth on these nights so drear,
 And so do I. Peter Rouse (Form I).

HOW I BUILT MY FIRST HIDE

After seeing a naturalist film on the television, where the narrator built a hide in some fields near a large expanse of water, and from there took some first-class films of wild birds in their natural surroundings, I decided to do likewise in the swamps near my home. Taking some plaster of Paris, a roll of string, my camera and some sandwiches, I went down to the swamps one Spring afternoon.

Putting on my boots, I gathered several large piles of reeds from the swamps, and then about two dozen poles, four or five feet long. Choosing a narrow peninsula of land jutting out into the swamps, I stuck four of the larger and thicker poles in the sodden earth in the shape of a rough square. With the string I then proceeded to lash the smaller poles firmly across the corner poles to make a reasonably firm skeleton of a hide, roughly two yards square. I proceeded to bind and interweave the reeds around the framework, leaving a small hole at each side to look through. For the door, I cut a piece of the framework out, just large enough for me to enter, and so well camouflaged that from ten yards I could not tell where the door was. After about an hour's solid work, the hide was finished, complete with a log to sit on and another to rest my tackle on.

I looked around for bird tracks, and in an area of mud I found the tracks of moorhens, snipes and a curlew. Taking some long cardboard strips, I folded them into rough squares about one to two inches square. These I stuck into the mud around the print. Then I mixed my plaster of Paris into a very stiff paste and scooped it into the square made by the cardboard. These I left, and went into the hide.

For nearly one hour I sat quietly and patiently, watching and waiting. No birds came reasonably near to photograph (I wanted a few close-ups), except a small water hen which scuttled off into the reeds again almost as soon as it came out of them. A few moments later, a moorhen swam sedately round a clump of reeds about seven yards away. Quietly I grabbed my camera and exposed a film as the hen swam inquisitively towards me. My camouflage must have been better than I thought it was for the moorhen swam within a few feet of my hide, then, sensing me, scuttled noisily away.

Ten minutes later, while I was eating my sandwiches, a wild goose from the direction of some more swamps about half-a-mile away flew over with a beating of wings. Focusing my camera, I took a superb photograph. After a few minutes, more and more birds came near me, and during the

following hour, I took five photos of moorhens and a peewit. Although I heard the drumming of the snipe, I never saw a chance to photograph it.

When it was time to go, I packed my things and went to the prints I had prepared. The plaster of Paris had hardened and I found I had four reasonable prints. I marked them on the back with the date, name of the bird and place and then packed them gently away.

Of the seven photographs I took that afternoon, six came out splendidly. One, of a curlew, came out slightly blurred, through my not changing the range. Quite a good afternoon's sport, I thought.

B. Boulton (Form IVa).

HORSES ?

My digs are in Harringay, London, where many sporting events are held, so I decided to go and see the horse-jumping at the arena. At that time I was new to London and its bewildering people, so by the time I arrived I was somewhat flustered.

After about twenty minutes queuing alongside men with cheese-cutters that made them look all "shut-up" inside, I arrived at the other side of the turnstiles somewhat bewildered and edged my way into the packed stadium. The air was polluted with smoky fog swirling in the eerie brightness of the spot lights.

I then began to take stock of what was below me. It wasn't at all as I thought it would be. For one thing there were no jumps. I was rather surprised at this, but I put it down to my not having my glasses on.

While I looked round a bell rang and everybody quietened down. Just to the right below me, in a haze, I saw some dim shapes shoot up with a clang and a bright, white form whizz past me. Then came the "horses." I was rather puzzled because I hadn't the slightest idea of what was going on and, unless it was my imagination, they were rather small horses. I tried to comfort myself with the thought that they might be specially bred for horse jumping (as you may have gathered, I don't know much about horses).

I waited until they came into sight again and then I put my glasses on. I gasped and blinked unbelievably because before me, chasing round the track after an electric "hare", were Greyhounds.

I had gone into the wrong entrance and entered the Greyhound Stadium instead of the arena!

R. Russell (Form IIIa).

AN ECCENTRIC OLD LADY

When she died, seven months ago, our next door neighbour was an eccentric old lady, aged about ninety. Her name was Miss Jennings, but because of her retiring habits she was nicknamed "Grumpy."

She had a thin face with almost transparent skin stretched tightly over the bones, and in her forehead were thin blue veins. Her hair was thin and white with a few hairpins stuck in anywhere and she wore clothes fashionable a century ago.

Her home was spotlessly clean and her brasses well polished, but her furniture too looked as if it had been handed down through the generations.

Her garden was a mass of tall weeds and on a hot day she would go into the centre of the garden armed with a pair of scissors, cut a small patch, place in it a deck chair, and proceed to make wickerwork baskets.

She was a miser. Even if she received only a few pence, she would count every penny, and a toothless grin would appear when she sold any baskets. Even though she demanded a high price for her art, she made many sales.

At least once a week, she would dress up in black and go to a funeral. It did not matter whose it was, she would still go.

Even though she was so morbid, I think everyone felt sorry when she died last October, and all her neighbours went to the funeral.

Kathleen Brown (Form IIIa).

SPRING CLEANING

Spring cleaning is a nuisance! You keep falling over chairs and tripping over carpets. Then a voice comes from upstairs telling you to bring up the dustpan. It's Mother! When you're half-way up the stairs with the dust pan, Mother decides she can do without it.

When it comes to meal time, dust is flying around and nearly choking you. Mother asks if you've caught cold when you start to cough and gives you a dose of Linctus.

The job starts again and father tells you to throw something away. Mother tells you not to. You're in a muddle and don't know what to do.

Sometimes silly accidents happen. You're carrying a vase and trip up over the brush handle and crash! No vase.

Still, there is one consolation. The house always looks gay and pretty after its Spring Clean.

M. Carney (Form IIIb).

SUNSET

The great globe of fire was sinking below the horizon, its long golden fingers stretching over the sea, tinting all in its path with the Midas touch. The houses on the cliff looked as though on fire with the red and yellow reflections of the sky. The fishing fleet sailed slowly out of the quiet harbour to meet the night, the changing red sky promising a good return in the morning.

The sun sank as though into the cold depths of the water, and shadows gradually crept across the scene, blotting out the houses and beach, and closing over the sea. The last tongue of fire had slowly slipped from view. Night had come and eerie shadows were quiet over the bay.

Diane Pearce (Form IIIb).

TOMMY'S DREAM

Tommy was a marvellous dreamer;
 He could dream all sorts of dreams,
 Dreams of Spain and dreams of China,
 Of cricket and of baseball teams.
 Tommy dreamed of life on Pluto,
 And on Mars and Mercury,
 Men who came in flying saucers,
 They might land near here, dreamed he.
 Once he dreamed that cats and dogs were
 Playing on a violin:
 He woke up and found a rain shower
 Playing on the old dust bin.

J. Clayborough (Form I).

A RIDE OVER THE DOWNS

What could be more enjoyable on a warm day, than to go for a swift canter over the downs with the breeze blowing in your face and through your hair, whipping the colour back into those cheeks which have become pale with being indoors for over nine hours each day, to hear the soft thud of the horse's hoofs as they pound over the turf, to feel the reins in your hands and the feeling of control over the animal you are riding. As you slow down to a trot and pat your horse, you become conscious that the horse has faith in you.

When you think that he is fit for another canter, in go your heels and you are off again with the ground tearing away beneath the four flying hoofs. When you are on a horse all your worries seem to go for the time being.

All too soon you find that your ride must come to an end, so for a moment you sit motionless, and then reluctantly turn towards home.

J. Howell (Form IIIb).

FIFTEEN MINUTES IN THE QUICKSANDS

Recently I spent a holiday with my friend at Reighton Gap.

After tea on the day we arrived, we decided to race to the beach. Suddenly I felt myself sinking and I realised I was in quicksands. My friend, Dorothy, was laughing at me and some horrible little boys even took my photograph. I tried to jump out but my efforts were in vain and Dorothy could not reach me to pull me out. I did not realise how serious my position was until I had sunk to my waist.

By this time a few children had gathered and, although I told them to fetch help, they stayed to laugh at me. Luckily a small girl had enough sense to tell her father and a friend. Together they dashed to me and tried to pull me out. A boy brought a long piece of wood which was lying on the beach but I could not grip it as my hands were covered in muddy sand. One of the men leaned forward and caught one of my hands and they formed a chain with Dorothy and they all pulled. It was useless; I didn't move an inch.

Desperately the man leaned forward and caught my other hand. They all pulled again and then—wonders! I moved. Unfortunately, as they pulled, the sands clung to my slacks and to my horror I realised my slacks and myself were parting company. Thank goodness they're tight at the waist or they would still be in the sands at Reighton Gap. A final tug from the men and I was out, complete with slacks.

I fainted with relief and the next thing I knew I was lying on the beach and Dorothy was throwing water over me.

Barbara Haslam (Form III).

A DAY WITH THE AMBULANCE BRIGADE

One Saturday morning I was feeling nervous as I put on my uniform. Only another hour and I was to start my first day on duty, at a sports meeting. I was only going so that I could enter the meeting free and also have a free tea.

Having arrived at the ground and having pushed my way through a dense crowd, I reached our tent. My pal was lounging inside, sucking an ice lolly, while I was boiling with the heat of the sun. We were told by the Superintendent to walk round the crowd.

Reluctantly we went out into the heat. Both of us were hoping that there would be no cases for us, but we were optimistic for a worried mother dashed up to us with her son who had cut his knee. This was my first-ever case so I set about it, first cleaning the wound and then dressing it. Very soon the little boy was limping away with a clean white bandage round his knee.

Time was passing slowly for my pal and me until an official came to inform us that we had to go for tea. This was the moment I had been waiting for, but as I crossed the field a woman fainted, causing a short delay.

Tea time passed only too quickly. In half an hour we were back on the tramp. A small girl fainted at the opposite side of the track but we dashed across only to see a senior member beat us to the scene. We were fortunate to see a man who had twisted his ankle by running over rough ground. We soon had him comfortable and, after resting for half an hour, he was able to limp home.

Home was where most other people had gone at this time, so we prepared to go too. It had not been a very exciting day but we would go again if asked.

J. Smart (Form IVa).

ATMOSPHERE

About seven o'clock one evening I was strolling through Wakefield, and I noticed how quiet it was compared with the afternoon. As I looked round I saw some of the shops had the blinds down and were in darkness, while in others you could see people counting the money which had been taken during the day. Then in other shops there were lights only in the windows so that passers-by could take a peep.

In the bus station there were only one or two people besides the bus inspectors and conductors who were walking about. There were about six green buses in the station and one was just entering with only four passengers.

Down by the market place things were very quiet indeed. Usually you hear salesmen shouting at the top of their voices. On the ground there were bits of paper, bad apples and all sorts of old rubbish. Roaming round the stalls, sniffing here and there, was a black and white dog, the only thing to disturb the peace of the silent market place.

K. Ackroyd (Form IIIb).

P.T.A. NOTES

The main social event to take place since our last notice appeared has been the "Family Social" which was held on Friday, 25th March. The attractions of a Beetle and Whist Drive, dancing and games, helped to swell the number of families attending, and, as in previous years, the evening proved a great success, not least financially, a profit of over £25 being realised. For this heartening result, which will enable the Association to meet its many commitments in the field of school welfare, we are indebted to a host of willing members, who helped in a variety of ways to make the occasion an enjoyable one. It is impossible to mention here all those who took part behind the scenes, but in particular our thanks are due to Mr. Dale for his gift of chocolate eggs for the raffle, which raised £4 9s. 10d., and to Peter Wilson, an old scholar, who gave up an evening of his vacation to assist with the organisation of the dancing.

In view of the undoubted social value of this event in bringing together on common ground large numbers of people intimately associated with the well-being of the school, your Committee has decided to substitute a similar function, to be called a "Parents' Social" for the usual Public Whist Drive and Dance in November. Further details of this venture will be announced later.

Because of the winter influenza epidemic, our usual January "At Home" was cancelled this year, and we met again on the 26th April for the Summer Term "At Home," at which parents were entertained by winning competitors in the recent House Festival Competition organised by Mr. Vaughan.

On the 17th May, under the aegis of the P.T.A., a meeting of third form parents and scholars was held to explain problems connected with the choosing of "grouped" subjects with a view to future careers. A large proportion of third formers and their parents were able to hear advice from Mr. Manley, Mr. Vaughan and Mrs. Pelkie, and much interest was stimulated by the evening's discussion.

P.T.A. activities for the year 1954-5 have now come to an end as examinations claim the attention of pupils and staff. Next year, however, new ventures lie before us, and we would again call on all parents for their support in the work we are attempting to carry out on behalf of the pupils' welfare. On Tuesday, 13th September, our Autumn Term "At Home" will be held, and we look forward to seeing a record

number of parents attending. Tea and biscuits will be served as usual from 6.30 until 7 o'clock, when Mr. Manley will open a discussion with a talk entitled "How parents can help their children." At about 7.30 there will be a brief Annual General Meeting, at which officers and committee for the session 1955-6 will be elected. We would stress that every parent has the privilege of voting for a local representative at this meeting, or of serving himself if elected, and all members of the present committee hope that as many as possible will attend to exercise this right. After this formal, but very necessary business, the evening will close with a film show.

J.A.P.



OULTON CHURCH

B. H. Cooper (Form IVa)

OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

OLD SCHOLARS' ACTIVITIES IN 1954-55

Socially and financially the past year has been quite a successful one. The Annual New Year's Eve Dance was well attended, both by old scholars and the general public and a handsome profit was shown. Our sincere thanks are due to Mr. Moss, who again acted as M.C., and to Mr. Archer for his invaluable help with the raffle. All those who patronised the dance seemed to have a good time and we hope to see them again this year, when the dance will end at midnight, New Year's Eve being on a Saturday.

Instead of the usual Re-Union Dance, which has not been a success in recent years, we held a social evening following the rugger and hockey matches with the School. We hope to make this an annual feature so that those Old Scholars who come to watch the games will be certain of tea and some form of entertainment afterwards. If sufficient support is forthcoming we may, in future years, engage a dance band.

Owing almost wholly to the success of the New Year's Eve Dance, the Association showed a profit last year. A less healthy sign however was the continued fall in membership. The present numerical strength of the Association is absurdly low and we appeal to all Old Roddillians to join their Old Scholars' Association and to take a share in its activities. The subscriptions are moderate indeed (3/6d. a year), each member receiving free copies of the School Magazine in January and July. For the first two years after leaving School, membership costs only 2/-. Subscriptions should be sent to Mr. P. H. Brunt, 53, Aberford Road, Woodlesford, Nr. Leeds, or to the School Secretary.

MRS. SHAW

After several years as Secretary of the School and of the O.S.A., Mrs. Shaw (Margaret Rhodes, 1944-49) left us in January. In recognition of her services to the Association, Margaret has been elected an Honorary Life Member. We wish her the best of health and happiness in the future.

OLD SCHOLARS' TIES

We have at last disposed of all our old stock of "austerity" ties and have ordered a new supply of full-sized ones. These will be available after Bank Holiday from the School Secretary or from Southcotts in Wakefield. At 7/11d. each they are really good value.

THE ROYAL AIRCRAFT ESTABLISHMENT, FARNBOROUGH

(Those of you who were at R.G.S. during the 1936-43 period will doubtless remember Dennis Walker and Peter Kemshell. Both are now working on aircraft research at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. Dennis has sent us the following article on the history of the Establishment. If any reader is interested in aircraft research as a career we will put him in touch with Dennis, who will be able to answer any questions he may have.)

It is only occasionally such important considerations as the Comet accidents reach the headlines, and the Royal Aircraft Establishment becomes news; you may be surprised to know therefore that experimental work on flying has been going on at Farnborough for almost fifty years. In 1905, the Balloon Factory and the Balloon Section Royal Engineers moved to the present site and they were the beginnings not only of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, but also of the Royal Air Force. Balloons were manufactured at Farnborough, personnel were trained in their use, and experimental work was done on the balloons and their associated equipment. In 1907, work was started on the first Army Aeroplane, which had a 50 h.p. engine, and the first official British flight with a power-driven, man-carrying aeroplane was achieved at Farnborough in September, 1908. Experiments with heavier-than-air machines were discontinued for a time because of the expense (£2,500), but developments in other countries caused a change of attitude to flying in general, and gradually approval was secured to modify existing aircraft and later still to design and construct several prototype aircraft. In 1914, the Admiralty took over all airships and from then on Farnborough had no more connection with them. However, the Royal Aircraft Factory as it had now been renamed, had been assuming new responsibilities in the form of wireless experiments, the design and construction of aero-engines, airspeed indicators, under-carriages and the development of methods of testing aircraft structures.

The beginning of the 1914-18 war brought a new phase of activity to the factory, which now had more funds allocated to it, and a rapidly expanding staff. At the beginning of the war the factory-designed aircraft were the only ones available for immediate production, and large numbers of them were built by outside firms. During the period 1914-18, about 30 different types were built at Farnborough, the

majority as prototypes for eventual mass production by aircraft companies. Meanwhile, the first wind-tunnel which had been built in the factory in 1907, was being used more and more extensively for testing aerofoils and aeroplane scale models, until a larger 7 ft. working section tunnel, was designed and built in 1917. Aircraft engine development too was continued during this period, together with the design of many aircraft auxiliaries.

In spite of the good results it achieved during the war, the factory was the subject of a great deal of criticism, chiefly on the grounds that a Government monopoly was being used to the detriment of private industry. The agitation reached Parliament in 1916 and an enquiry later gave the ruling that the factory should no longer be concerned in the design and construction of aircraft, even in prototype form, but should concentrate on the research and advisory aspects of aeronautics.

The creation of the Royal Air Force in 1918 caused the factory to be renamed the Royal Aircraft Establishment, to avoid confusion in initials, but employees still talk about working in the "factory" rather than in the "establishment," so the old name lives on. Between the two wars, much important research and development was carried on, in spite of the reduced staff, and the economy imposed by national considerations. Several new facilities were added to the establishment to keep pace with the increasing performance of aircraft. A 24 ft. open jet tunnel for full scale testing of aircraft, a 12 ft. vertical spinning tunnel and a 660 ft. seaplane tank were all built during this period. The flying facilities were also much improved since experimental flying was still part of the programme.

The second world war caused another increase in activity and the number of personnel was soon approaching that of the 1914 war. One of the most vital activities during the war was the flight testing of a continuous variety of aircraft; over 1,500 aircraft were dealt with in the peak year of 1944 by the Establishment Test Pilots. Models of the aircraft were also tested in the wind tunnels, at ever-increasing wind speeds. Achievements at the establishment during the war included the predictor gyro-gunsight (G.G.S. Mk. 1) used in the R.A.F. and U.S.A.F. in large numbers; a stabilised automatic bombsight used against small and important targets including the Tirpitz; rocket-propelled catapult method of launching aircraft from merchant ships; aircraft camera type F52 for high altitude bomb-damage assessment; the

first rocket-firing installation for aircraft armament; Mk. 8 auto-pilot which became the standard auto-pilot of the R.A.F.; reconstruction of a V2 rocket to analyse its performance and design.

After the war the pressure of work naturally was not so great, but the uneasy international situation has caused another increase. Wind tunnel speeds have increased so that models can now be tested at many times the speed of sound. The largest and fastest aircraft in use (including the giant Brabazon) can land on the airfield. The establishment has played a great part in the birth and development of aeronautics both from the purely scientific and also from the technical and industrial points of view. Naturally, many facts must be left out of such a short account but perhaps you will have gained some idea of the work done.

MORE FIRST-TIMERS

Since our last magazine at least two more Old Boys have made the headlines and joined our select group of "first-timers."

Edward Gilbert Jenkins, who was at R.G.S. from 1942 to 1946, had an oil painting accepted for the Yorkshire Artists' Exhibition held in Leeds recently. The subject of the painting was the harbour at Polperro in Cornwall. As far as we are aware, Edward is our first artist to meet with success. We wish him continued fame and fortune.

Peter Ward, of Oulton (1944-49), is certainly not our first billiards player. He is, however, to the best of our knowledge, our first champion at the sport and we congratulate him most heartily on his performance in winning the Yorkshire Junior Billiards Championship of 1955. Peter was presented with the trophy by Leslie Driffield, the ex-World Amateur Billiards Champion.

Pat Brunt (1944-50), was recently selected to play in a Lancashire County Hockey Trial. Congratulations Pat! Congratulations too to Charlie Naylor (1945-52) who has been elected captain of the Castleford Rugby Union Club for next season.

John V. Bower ("Long John" — (1935-40) has been elected an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries. He is employed by the Halifax Building Society and has recently returned to Yorkshire after several years in the South of England.

OLD BOYS v. SCHOOL RUGGER MATCH

Played on April 5th, this year's game was one of the best since the war and produced an exciting finish. The School side was definitely on top in the first half and was unlucky not to be in front at the half way stage, when there was in fact no score. The School's forwards had played well against a heavier pack and had obtained a greater share of the ball from both scrums and line-outs. Taylor and Caines were particularly outstanding.

Early in the second half, Taylor put the School in the lead with a try, but two quick tries by Daniel, the Old Boys' prop forward, one miraculously converted from the touchline by Wilks, gave the Old Boys an 8-3 lead. By now the Old Boys were playing more as a team and looked to be heading for a comfortable win, but the School never gave up trying and a last-minute try by Harry Tolley, converted by Storey, made the score 8-8. A draw was a very fair result and the School side is to be congratulated on a fine performance.

The Old Scholars were represented by:—D. Oakley; J. Screen, A. Wilks, M. Haley and B. Longley; C. G. Naylor and B. Marley; E. Abbs, P. Gledhill, A. Daniel, G. Benson, J. R. Beaumont, W. Fozzard, D. Jagger and R. Lockwood.

OLD GIRLS v. SCHOOL HOCKEY MATCH

In this game the School side were always on top and ran out comfortable winners by 4 goals to 1.

CRICKET

The date of this year's game with the School XI has been changed from July 19th to 18th (Monday). Any Old Scholar who would like to play is invited to contact Mr. Holmes at School.

BADMINTON AND TENNIS

We shall again be playing badminton in the School Gym on Friday evenings during the coming Christmas and Easter terms. Rackets and feathers are provided, a charge of 6d. a night being made.

Until the end of August, Old Scholars are allowed to use the School tennis courts on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and on Saturday afternoons. This privilege applies only to members of the Old Scholars' Association.

A HAPPY RECOVERY

The many friends of Christine Sidebottom, a member of the O.S.A. Committee, will be glad to learn that, after several months in Pinderfields Hospital, Christine has quite recovered from her attack of polio and is now out of hospital.

MY JOB (No. 2)

This article has been written by Norman White (1936-42), who for the past seven years has worked as a Local Government Officer in the employment of the West Riding County Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The headquarters of the West Riding County Council being at Wakefield, quite a large number of R.G.S. pupils have in the past entered Local Government on leaving school. For several reasons the numbers have decreased in recent years, but, if any present-day pupils are considering Local Government as a career, perhaps this article will help them to come to a decision.

The question of immediate pay versus future prospects is of course one which puzzles everyone who is choosing a job, particularly his first one.

Immediate pay in Local Government is not very good at school-leaving age. The present Higher General Division provides £190 p.a. at 16, £210 at 17 and £230 at 18 (these figures are for males, the corresponding ones for females being £165, £180 and £195). New employees who have not obtained the General Certificate of Education in certain subjects are placed on the General Division, in which the salaries are the same as in the Higher General for the first few years but the maximum salary rather less.

So much for immediate pay—now what about the prospects? The male on the Higher General Division can look forward to £400 p.a. at 25 and £475 at 28, the female to £330 at 25 and £390 at 28. The salaries at the top of the scale (£475 males and £390 females) are probably comparable with those outside Local Government, but in the teens and early 20's the pay is not so good as may be obtained elsewhere. There are many recent cases of young Local Government Officers leaving the service for jobs with private firms at £2 to £3 per week more pay. Even at the top of the Higher General scale the salary does not stand comparison with that obtainable in the Civil Service, in a Bank or in an Insurance Office.

The difficulty in recruiting staff in the lower pay groups is causing a serious problem in Local Government, and no doubt something will be done in the near future to make the service more attractive to school leavers.

Now for the prospects of promotion, first of all without and then with qualifications:—

The Nalگو National Charter prohibits any promotion from the Higher General Division without some form of qualification, but as the Charter has not been adopted by the

West Riding branch of Nalgo promotion is still possible merely on recommendation. Salary on the Clerical Division (Grade II) rises to £545 (445 for females) and on the Higher Clerical (Grade III) to £610 (£500 females).

In practice, however, it is extremely difficult for men to obtain promotion without some qualification, and for women practically impossible. The vast majority of Local Government Officers are on the General or Higher General Divisions and many of them will stay there.

With professional qualifications, the prospects in Local Government are much brighter. A qualified accountant, surveyor, architect, librarian, sanitary inspector or graduate can gain access to the Administrative, Professional and Technical Grades, with hopes of up to £1,000 per annum. Professional qualifications can be obtained by correspondence courses or by attending evening classes. The W.R.C.C. is usually quite generous in granting time off to its employees who are studying and who wish to attend day classes.

At present, Local Government Officers in the employment of the W.R.C.C. work a 76 hour fortnight, with alternate Saturday mornings off. Annual leave ranges from 12 days for General Division officers under 21 and 15 days for those over 21 to 24 days for officers in some of the higher grades.

Local Government today is not an occupation which offers much to the officer who is not prepared to study. However, for the young man or woman who is prepared to study hard for four or five years the way to the top is open.

Births

To George Beech (1938-44) and Joyce, a daughter, Judith, born 8th March, 1955.

To Ken Bastow (1935- ?) and Esther, a son, Simon, born 18th February, 1955.

To Margaret Shaw (Née Rhodes) (1944-49) and Victor, a son, born April 25th, 1955.

Engagements

Jean Garth (1940-46) to Wilfred V. Fozzard (1941-48).

James Roy Garth (1941-46) to Jean M. Crossley.

Bryon E. Roberts (1943-51) to Audrey Jeanette Knee.

Marriages

Mollie Jaques (1943-48) to William S. Guy, on April 12th, 1955.

Carol Jean Elizabeth McNaught-Davis (1944-48) to Norman V. Davis, on 19th February, 1955.

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