

# RENDCOMB COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Vol. 11 No. 2

March, 1957

This volume is dedicated to the memory of  
Gilbert Alan Hamilton Wills,  
Baron Dulverton of Batsford,  
1880—1956.  
Governor and benefactor of the College.

# Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume II. Number 2.

March, 1957.

## CONTENTS.

	Page
School Diary ... ..	4
Obituary: the late Lord Dulverton ... ..	4
College Officers ... ..	6
School Notes ... ..	6
General Meeting Officers and Notes ... ..	9
Old Boys' Notes ... ..	10
The Christmas Party ... ..	13
Music Notes ... ..	15
Puppets ... ..	17
Games Report ... ..	18
New Library Books ... ..	24
New Gramophone Records ... ..	27
"Hamlet" at Stratford ... ..	28
Natural History Supplement ... ..	31



College, Oxford. The year after he graduated he spent in the Wills factories in Bristol in order to become acquainted with the organisation and processes there. He also joined the Royal North Devon Yeomanry and later formed and was joint Master of the Dulverton Foxhounds. He greatly enjoyed his hunting and frequently rode at point-to-point meetings in the West Country. In 1908 he became an A. D. C. to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

He succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his father in 1909 and in 1912 was returned to Parliament as the Unionist member for Taunton. He served during the first World War with the Royal North Devon Hussars at Gallipoli and on the Western Front. In the last year of the war, as a Lieutenant-Colonel he commanded a battalion of the Machine Gun Corps and was twice mentioned in despatches.

He had retained his seat in the House of Commons but in 1918 his old constituency was affected by re-distribution. He therefore contended at Weston-super-Mare and was returned as a Coalition Unionist. For a time he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Postmaster General but in 1923 decided not to stand for re-election. He had joined the Executive Committee of the Imperial Tobacco Company and decided to give his whole time to the business. In 1924 he became Chairman in succession to his cousin, Sir George Wills. He was created a Baron in 1929 for public and political services.

He was a man of public spirit and open-handed generosity, with a deep sense of the tradition and heritage of England. He gave to Bristol Cathedral and to the University; to Westminster Abbey, to Guy's Hospital and to Liverpool Cathedral. But these were only the highlights of a lifetime of helping individual people and causes and groups.

He maintained a keen and lively interest in the College even towards the end of his life, when he was seldom well enough to visit us or to attend Governors' meetings. The last of his kindnesses to Rendcomb—and they were indeed many and important—was the rebuilding and enlarging of the organ in the church. He took the keenest interest in the selection of the builder and subsequently asked to be kept closely informed of the progress of the work. He was a man of clear understanding with great ability for going quickly to the centre of a problem with which he was concerned. His advice was invaluable. Beneath a courtly manner and the power of a practised speaker to turn a charming or trenchant phrase, there was a shy and simple man who was greatly loved by those who were privileged to have his friendship. He will be deeply missed.

## COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Lent Term, 1957.

Senior Prefect—J. R. Ellis.

Group Leaders—H. A. Gough, R. J. Lawson, R. F. Stimson. Prefect—J. A. Richards.

College Workman—M. G. Cooper.

†Public Workman—B. R. Paish.

Music Warden—J. A. Richards.

Librarians—J. R. Ellis, S. R. Merrett, J. B. Gooch,  
I. A. N. Campbell.

Manual Foremen—J. R. Ellis, B. R. Paish, M. A. Forster,  
R. D. Comley, D. R. Griffiths, A. K. Bowley.

Poultrymen—G. H. G. Herbert, M. R. Horton, R. W. Taylor,  
J. F. W. Beard.

Stagemen—M. A. Forster, G. H. G. Herbert, I. A. N. Campbell,  
P. G. Auden, P. G. S. Airey, R. F. Stebbing.

Music Librarian—R. F. Stimson.

Choir Librarians—G. S. Bartlett, P. K. Dale.

Pictureman—J. E. Gooding.

Collections and Deck Chairs—P. G. S. Airey.

Lampmen—I. A. N. Campbell, D. R. Griffiths.

Q. P. Concerts—J. R. Alder.

Notices—C. H. Thomason, R. D. White, D. A. Hodges.

Church Ushers—G. H. G. Herbert, A. P. Hayes.

†Furniture Committee—R. D. White, P. G. S. Airey,  
J. A. T. Goodborn.

†Billiards Committee—C. H. Thomason, I. A. N. Campbell,  
R. A. Cockrell.

†Sledge Committee—M. R. Horton, J. van Coillie, M. D. Naish.

† General Meeting Elections.

## SCHOOL NOTES.

Christmas Term, 1956.

We welcome the following boys who entered College in September 1956: I. S. C. Airey, D. M. Tucker, R. J. Whittall, M. A. Gooding, P. B. Heppleston, L. de V. Wragg, P. J. Callaghan, G. E. Chapman, D. G. Griffiths, A. D. Heppleston, R. C. Jones,  
R. A. D. Laws, N. R. Meakin, M. E. Morris, C. B. Stillwell, D.

J. Thomasson, D. J. Tovey, K. A. Walker. And we offer our good wishes to D. R. Rawcliffe who has left.

We also welcome Mr. D. R. Buchanan who has joined the staff as Art Master. He was trained at Corsham Court, near Bath, and his pictures have been shown at the Royal Academy and other important galleries.

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We are deeply grateful to The Dulverton Trust for a generous gift which will enable us to replace our existing pianos in the course of time, and to buy much needed instruments for the orchestra.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are grateful to Miss M. Barnard-Hankey for the gift of some gramophone records, and to Miss Christine Arnold for several bound volumes of Classical Piano Music.

\* \* \* \* \*

During the summer holidays the Music Rooms at the Old Rectory, and some of the domestic staff rooms, were redecorated.

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On Monday the 8th of October, Colonel Rose gave a lecture about the work of Dr. Barnardo's Homes. It was illustrated by a film and lantern slides.

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A large party of members of the Junior and Middle School went to the Town Hall at Cheltenham on Thursday the 27th of September, some fifty boys in all, to see the Hobbies Exhibition. This has now established itself as one of the biennial attractions of the county. Although many societies enter regularly in each exhibition there are always enough changes to promote fresh interest and new ideas are constantly being introduced.

This year the work of some sixty societies or individuals were on show. Some of the items were ingenious and attractive while others were frankly dull. One could hardly compare the stand of the Model Engineers with beautifully made working-models of all kinds with that of the Gramophone Society whose work after all does not lend itself to visible demonstration; its exhibit consisted of no more than an old gramophone with cylindrical records and a modern amplifier. The Film Society of Cheltenham had some interesting coloured transparencies on show, and the Amateur Radio Society's equipment took up more than half of the orchestral platform. Unfortunately for most of the time we were there, none of their transmitters or receivers were working, so we missed talking to Mars.

It is with great regret that we record the death, through a fatal accident on the Village Hill, of the Rector's mother, Mrs. Isobel Kathleen Wheeler, on the 23rd October, 1956.

In the normal course of events she did not come into close contact with many people in the College, but to those who knew her well, she was a cheerful person full of vivacity, looking and behaving much younger than her seventy years. She had a keen sense of humour and was a delightful companion. She was generous to a fault and though often in great pain from an arthritic condition, was always giving her time and energy to some cause or individual. It is difficult to realise that she had only been in Rendcomb for eighteen months, so quickly did she endear herself to those who soon found themselves her friends. It is rare to feel so keenly the loss of one known for so short a time.

We extend to the Rector, the Reverend V. S. N. Wheeler, and to his sister Miss Helen Wheeler, our sincere sympathy.

The College and Village Choirs combined to sing at the funeral service.

#### **MEETING OFFICERS.**

Spring Term, 1957.

Chairman—R. F. Stimson.

Secretary—S. R. Merrett.

Games Captain—J. R. Ellis.

Games Committee—R. J. Lawson, C. Handoll.

Games Committee Treasurer—R. C. Pilkington.

Field Secretary—M. G. Cooper.

Boys' Banker—J. B. R. Browne.

Meeting Banker—J. B. Gooch.

Auditors—J. E. Gooding, P. G. Auden.

Financial Advisory Committee—R. F. Stimson, P. Gilbert,

I. A. N. Campbell.

"Classical" Record Committee—J. A. Richards, D. R. Griffiths,

J. R. Alder.

"Jazz" Record Committee—D. W. Brown, M. G. Cooper.

Record Committees Treasurer—S. D. Hicks.

Senior Shopman—R. W. Taylor.

Shopmen—M. J. N. Bryant, J. Shaw.

Breakages Man—P. G. S. Airey.

House Committee Treasurer—R. Bolton-King.

Finance Committee Treasurer—D. R. Poole.  
 Finance Committee—G. J. Taylor, J. C. Malpass.  
 Hockey Groundsmen—J. D. R. Paine, J. R. Alder.  
 Junior Hockey Groundsman—J. A. van Coillie.  
 Cricket Groundsman—M. R. Horton.  
 Tennis Groundsman—J. F. W. Beard.  
 Cycle Committee—R. Bolton King, M. D. Naish, N. R. Wake. Hockey  
 Games Wardens—R. F. Stebbing, R. A. Cockrell.  
 Rugby Games Warden—R. A. Dauncey.  
 Cricket Games Warden—R. F. Stebbing.  
 Tennis Games Warden—M. D. Naish.  
 Entertainments Committee—C. H. Thomason, R. C. Pilkington, R. D.  
 Comley, S. D. Hicks, N. J. Price.  
 Paperman—S. D. Hicks.  
 Drying Room Committee—T. L. H. Benbow, G. Harrison. Nominations  
 Committee—J. R. Ellis, R. F. Stimson,  
 H. A. Gough, J. A. Richards, J. E. Gooding.  
 Council—J. R. Ellis, H. A. Gough, R. F. Stimson, R. J. Lawson, M. G.  
 Cooper, J. A. Richards, C. H. Thomason.  
 Selection Committee—J. R. Ellis, R. F. Stimson, H. A. Gough, R. J.  
 Lawson, S. R. Merrett.  
 Rule Committee—J. R. Ellis, J. B. R. Browne, S. R. Merrett. Hockey  
 Secretary 1957—C. Handoll.  
 Cricket Secretary 1957—D. W. Brown.  
 Rugby Secretary 1957—R. D. Comley.

### GENERAL MEETING NOTES.

For the first few weeks of the term, the business which took first place was the Rule Committee's Annual Report. This year's report differed from the usual in that the Constitutional Rules had at last been thoroughly revised. The result was an extremely large set of recommendations, which the Meeting accepted with only a few minor amendments.

Sympathy and horror vied with common sense when a proposal was made that ten pounds should be given to the British Red Cross Fund, for use in relief work in Hungary. Perhaps unfortunately, it was proposed that the money should come from the Meeting Reserve: it was pointed out that by this recourse, members would not personally make any sacrifice and therefore much of its point would be lost. In an open vote, however, the proposal was passed.

A proposal was made that the Meeting should buy the "Daily Telegraph" once again. Since the Meeting commenced to take three daily papers in March 1948, adding the "Daily Mail" to the "Times" and the "News Chronicle", the only changes have been from the "Mail" to the "Telegraph" in October 1951, and the "Telegraph" to the "Manchester Guardian" in October 1955. It might be interesting to speculate as to whether these changes reflect the politics of members. However, on this occasion it was felt that the suggestion that the "Telegraph" gave better news coverage was unfounded.

As far back as July 1951, the Meeting promised to add a further £60 to the War Memorial Fund towards a carpet for the Library. This term the Headmaster suggested that the Meeting should give £100 to the Fund. He explained that he and the Librarian were convinced that it would only be worth-while to buy a really first-class carpet that would last. The governors had promised to provide new chairs for the room and Mrs. Huntley Sinclair had promised curtains. A proposal bringing the suggestion into effect was passed by a large majority.

Finally, towards the end of term, a series of rules were made which may have considerable effect on the distribution of Meeting Offices in the future. Arising out of dissatisfaction over the present electoral system, the plan adopted is that a Nominations Committee of five members shall select a number of candidates for each office, allowing a reasonable freedom of choice. Any further nominations may be made by individual members if a separate proposal is brought in.

#### **OLD BOYS' NOTES.**

B. J. Brooks, D. F. M., has been elected an Associate of the Royal Aeronautical Society. He is now Commanding the Armament Squadron of No. 233 Operational Conversion Unit at R. A. F. Station, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire.

\* \* \* \*

R. W. Alder and D. G. Vaisey were both selected for the Oxford University Freshmen's Hockey Trial and the former was able to play in it.

\* \* \* \*

A. E. Shield has recently been appointed Chief Engineer for Reed Corrugated Cases Ltd., a group of several factories that constitute a subsidiary of Albert E. Reed and Co. Ltd., the newsprint firm.

P. D. B. Levett has been appointed to a firm of Electronic Engineers in the U. S. A. He and his family left England in November and we wish them every happiness in their new venture.

\* \* \* \*

M. C. B. Levett is in Canada with his family.

\* \* \* \*

The following O. R. s visited the College during the Autumn Term, 1956: Gerard Benson (Chagrin), R. G. Betterton, P. G. Cockell, R. J. van den Driessche, T. Gay, B. Glastonbury, P. A. T. Griffiths, J. M. Harrison, J. W. J. Reed, M. D. Richards, T. W. Rowley.

\* \* \* \*

The London Dinner of the Old Rendcombian Society was held on Saturday, October 13th, at the Bedford Corner Hotel, Bedford Square. The business meeting of the Society being in Gloucester this year, the gathering included wives and fiancées, and as in 1954 was a great success. We understand that the next mixed party will be in Bristol in 1957 and then in London again in 1958.

The great advantage of the new venue was that we were able to go on talking for longer and the party did not break up until just after 11 p. m. It was a great pleasure to see Mr. Simpson and his daughter (Mrs. Drake) and once again to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Osborne, now retired to Oxford. Austen Magor is to be congratulated on the arrangements for the evening and although there were a number of (obviously unavoidable) cancellations which robbed him of his total of 60, it was undoubtedly a happy occasion that was enjoyed by all present.

Douglas Dakin was in the chair and was on the top of his form. The Headmaster spoke briefly about the past year at the College and let fall that he had been taught by both Mr. and Mrs. Osborne in his own schooldays. Mr. Simpson gave a charming and delightful after-dinner speech that must have been the envy of all present, who on occasion have to do this job. It was a delight to have a few words from Mr. Osborne and to hear his warm invitation to O. R. s to visit him in Oxford.

The following were present: Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Alder, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Browning, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Bye, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Dakin, N. Dalton, F. H. Dutton, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Field, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Field, W. J. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Lee-Browne, Mr. and Mrs. P. D. B. Levett, A. C. Magor, J. E. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. C. Osborne, J. D. Painter, P. D. Quick, Mr. and Mrs. Colin Raggatt, A. G. Granston Richards, A. E. Shield, Mr. J. H. Simpson and Mrs. Drake, P. W. Sumsion,

R. M. Sumsion, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Terrett, Mr. and Mrs. David Vaughan, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Waterton, R. T. Wood.

\* \* \*

The West of England Old Rendcombian Dinner and Annual General Meeting was held at the New Inn, Gloucester, on the evening of Saturday, November 24th. F. J. Batten was in the chair and A. C. Magor as Secretary and Treasurer dealt with the Minutes and the accounts of the year. A slight increase in the subscription was sanctioned for 1956-57 in order to cover the increased costs of printing and postage. The Secretary was asked to consult with the auditor, D. C. Terrett, and others, with a view to producing at the 1957 A. G. M. a statement of future financial policy. D. C. Terrett was elected Chairman and C. J. Brisley Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. A. C. Magor and R. J. Kendal having previously indicated their willingness to continue as Secretary and Assistant Secretary, were duly re-elected with very warm appreciation of their services. The same applied to J. C. Maslin as Registrar. J. E. Allen accepted the work of auditor, vacated by D. C. Terrett on becoming Chairman.

The gathering was a relatively small one, but one of the happiest that the writer remembers at Gloucester. It will be remembered as the year in which, quite by chance, the majority of those present came from the late 1920s and early 1930s—and remembered too for the very warm welcome they gave to the younger O. R. s present. A number of people met each other again for the first time in over twenty years and the only regret was that time went so quickly. The dinner was first-rate, the room extremely cold; but conversation flowed easily in the warmth of the smaller room to which we retired afterwards. D. G. V. Taylor had come from Thetford, Norfolk; W. Burns, on leave from Malaya, came from the Isle of Wight; R. G. Betterton came from Lincolnshire; H. P. Dainton came from Merseyside and A. E. A. Brain from Cardiff. Bristol sent a good contingent and we were only sorry that so few people from central and north Gloucestershire were able to come. A. C. Magor was warmly congratulated on his arrangements for the evening. The following were present—J. E. Allen, F. J. Batten, R. G. Betterton, A. E. A. Brain, R. C. J. Brain, C. J. Brisley, W. Burns, R. F. Butler, H. P. Dainton, J. E. Eyles, D. W. Lee-Browne, A. C. Magor, K. J. Morgan, J. W. J. Reed, H. H. Selby, N. Slade, W. F. Smallwood, D. G. V. Taylor.

## THE CHRISTMAS PARTY, 1956.

The Christmas Party this year was a 'howling' success. As usual there was heroic work decorating in the afternoon. Mrs. Lee Browne, Miss Creswell, and their helpers, had admirably swamped the Halls with flowers that morning, and had also made up Saul as a gipsy fortune-teller. The decorations, the usual streamers, gay and festive, were augmented this year by 'greenery' for which the Entertainments Committee had obtained special permission. The holly was marvellously berried and, surprisingly, the birds had not stripped every tree at the critical moment.

Sprays of box, yew and laurel were the bulk of the greenery, and these were capped by a magnificent Christmas Tree which the Entertainments Committee had managed to secure. It was placed in the corner of the main stairs, next to the radiator, and was, when hung with fairy lights, a truly magnificent sight. We hope this revival of a grand custom will be repeated in following years.

The party opened officially at 5. 30 when hordes of gaily dressed people poured into the Halls, each eyeing the others with admiration and rivalry. There were many excellent costumes, including a Turk, a flapper-girl of the 1920's, a mediaeval herald, and a bird. A brave effort by one of the older boys was a face depicted on his bare chest and a huge collar and tie around his waist. Unfortunately the effect was lost to most people as the greater part of the costume was well below eye-level.

Miss Babington and her staff once again gave us an excellent spread. The taste did nothing to belie the appearance and our housekeeper got a rousing cheer which she certainly deserved.

On leaving the Dining-room we started dancing in Saul's and Clock Halls. Some had feared that, as the year before, the competitions would eclipse the dancing, to leave the floor embarrassingly bare, but there was an excellent attendance in Saul's Hall and in fact, many of our non-dancing brethren were ploughing bravely round the floor. What matter if a few of the smaller ones were slightly trampled underfoot! It was all taken in good spirit.

As for the competitions these were well-handled and original. The first was when the Entertainments Committee arrived in Saul's Hall at the beginning of the Party, dressed as gipsies, and announced that Neddy, their caravan horse, had been lost. It was stated that his finder would be suitably rewarded. He was eventually discovered, after being tracked all round the building, under the tables in the Small Classroom, which had been draped as a saloon for lounging, and reading or chatting.

The other competitions were concerned with the identification of various buildings, various film stars in silhouette and various

advertisements, from which portions had been cut. A further one was the naming of popular strip cartoons, of which a number had been collected from the daily papers. All these competitions were placed on a table beneath the clock, which was a great improvement on the old custom of secluding them in either the Small Classroom or the Library. The dancers were thus able to try the competitions while keeping a weather eye open to see what they were missing.

There was, in fact, much cause for a sharp look-out to be kept as various novelty dances had been introduced. Two of the most hilarious of these were, a quickstep in which the partners had to hold a tangerine between their foreheads, and a musical chairs dance. The former proved to be a test of balance, forethought and endurance, and the latter supplied many bumps and bruises, from sitting down on chairs which were not there. These dances gave much enjoyment to both the dancers and the spectators.

At 8. 30, in Big School, we were entertained by an excellent set of sketches for an hour and a quarter. These included one mimicking the Goon Show, another of an episode in a railway station waiting-room, and a most amusing farce arising out of an old lady's request in a grocer's for "Two penn'orth o' ghost poison." These were all very well received by the audience and prepared us for anything, good or bad, to follow.

We were not disappointed. The always popular Rendcomb sketches followed in quick succession. It would be difficult to praise these enough. The Entertainments Committee and their "helpers" had cooked up a truly wonderful and original set, all sung to famous operatic arias.

The most striking were the "1st Messenger," the "Waterworks", and "Cold in the Halls". The last was a gentle jibe at the working conditions for sixth formers in the Halls during cold spells, which are always sharp before the heating goes on and immediately give way to warm weather when it does. I. A. N. Campbell was wheeled, stiff, and apparently, lifeless, onto the stage where a most moving epitaph, referring to his heroic qualities, was sung to the tune of the "The Minstrel Boy".

"The Waterworks", sung to Handel's Water Music, "The Volga Boatman", and "D'ye ken John Peel," excellently depicted the hardships and triumphs of the gang of workers who voyaged across the valley every Tuesday in search of more water for the college.

"The First Messenger", to the tune of "La Donna e Mobile" was a masterpiece of production, script-writing and singing. Sung very capably by J. A. Richards and H. A. Gough, specially borrowed from the choir, it provided a talking-point for weeks after-

wards. The three other sketches, humorous but not outstanding, were performed by the Committee and co-opted helpers, the last chorus being sung to the tune of "The Soldiers Song" from Faust. We left Big School in an excellent mood to continue dancing.

The only disappointment of the evening was the finale. An enormous bonfire had been constructed at the junction of the Cirencester and Cheltenham drives. It had been proposed that, when the greenery had been taken down, we should all go to see the ceremonious burning of the bonfire, with this added. Owing to the appalling weather this was impossible at the time but the bonfire was admirably disposed of a few days later.

J. B. R. B.

### MUSIC NOTES.

In July, 1956, we came to the end of our first generation of instrumentalists since violin and wood-wind lessons were started again after the War; and all the string players in our orchestra, except one, were among the boys who left at the end of term. Fortunately, however, only one wood-wind player has been lost to us, and through the kindness of Mr. G. F. Graty and Mr. C. M. Swaine, who are most regular in attending rehearsals, we were able to play chamber music on alternate weeks with junior orchestra on the others. As we now had no violist, Mr. D. R. Buchanan, who not only plays the viola but has himself made the one he uses, was particularly welcome to the Chamber Music Group and the Junior Orchestra.

The College Choir was invited to sing at the funeral of the late Lord Dulverton, the Founder's elder brother. We were proud to accept and glad to pay our tribute to a former Governor who had done so much for the College. We sang Mr. Tooze's setting of "I heard a voice from Heaven" which he wrote for the Memorial Service for King George VI, and by the family's special request, Walford Davies's "God be in my head". We feel that we can, with proper modesty, report that the Choir sang extremely well; they have never done better. The Church at Batsford is excellent for sound, and while it may have made the most of the quality of tone, it would, nonetheless, have shown up inaccuracies.

Although Carol Services are among the most popular of Christmas features, we took a deep breath and decided to do Part I of Handel's "Messiah" instead of the "top nine" from various carol books. This was the most ambitious of our musical efforts. We had no soloists, and in the main recitatives and arias were

read as lessons, but two were retained and sung in unison: "O Thou that tellest" by baritones and tenors, and "Come unto Him" by altos singing counter-tenor and the second section by trebles. On the whole, the experiment of altos singing in chorus (i. e. more than one in unison) was not a success, but otherwise the performance was good, though it must be admitted that those taking part were, at times, aware that it lacked vigour in the more complex choruses. Of these the fugue "And he shall purify", is one of the most wonderful of all the works Handel wrote for voices. For some reason it is often omitted from "complete" performances, perhaps solely because of its difficulty. The voices come in one by one with little orchestral support and then recede into the background while other parts sing the tune. Here the choir did extremely well in spite of one missed entry which Mr. Suddrick, with his customary skill and ingenuity, played on the organ and so was hardly noticed; the singers soon picked themselves up. Another chorus, again (inexplicably) omitted from many performances but sung on this occasion, was the *finale* to Part I, "His Yoke is easy". This starts modestly with one part and the others entering after a time. Here the choir built up their climax so that the end of the performance was little short of thrilling. In the event, their ambitious project was justified in the obvious enjoyment of the congregation.

We had a small string orchestra, led by Miss Keil, and once again Mr. Eric Suddrick played the organ. We are most grateful to them and to Mrs. N. Mack worth-Young, Mrs. I. J. Goodman, Miss K. R. Holborow and Miss C. Trafford, some of whom travelled at least forty miles (here and back) in spite of petrol rationing. Once again we are in the debt of Mr. Graty, Mr. Swaine and Mr. Buchanan, who had attended many rehearsals to give us some idea of singing with an orchestra, as well as playing at the performance.

On October 9th a party attended a piano recital by Karl Ulrich Schnabel. The programme, which consisted of the Sonata Pathétique by Beethoven, Schumann's "Papillons", 3 Moments Musicaux by Schubert, an Andante for "Orgewalze" by Mozart and three pieces of Chopin, seemed promising and high hopes were held of the performance of this man who, perhaps rather unfortunately for him, has a father who was world renowned as a pianist. In the event hopes were not justified. Though it may seem churlish to complain when one knows that one would not play so well oneself, nevertheless it must be said that he made many surprising and obvious mistakes. His interpretation of the "Papillons" was particularly poor, his butterflies sounding distinctly elephantine.

Later in the term we went to a concert given by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The attraction was the Brahms Violin Concerto in which the soloist was Yfrah Neaman. The Symphony No. 2 by Borodin was also very popular and the other two works on the programme were the Prelude to Act 1 of Wagner's "Lohengrin" and a little known work by Holst, "Egdon Heath".

**"YOU CAN'T SCARE YANKS. "**

Ghoulie	...	...	Jonathan Shaw
Ghostie...		...	Trevor Benbow
Father...		...	Robert Cockrell
Mother	...	...	Michael Bryant
Buster	...	...	NicholasPrice
Diana...		...	Antony Hill
Dog	...	...	SimonHicks

"You Can't Scare Yanks" was presented on the puppet stage on the 17th December. It was a spirited, original and amusing performance.

The story dealt with the unavailing efforts of a pair of ghosts, comfortably ensconced in an empty house, to frighten away the new tenants, a family of Americans. Unfortunately the ghosts, being steeped in good old English tradition, proved a source merely of fascinated delight to the newcomers, who were steeped in good old Transatlantic naiveté.

The vocal performance was well sustained, the voices clear and easily distinguished. The American accents were well achieved, considering the youth of the performers, and produced a convincing replica of the atmosphere of "Life with the Lyons". The ghosts' voices brought out quite clearly their different characters, the mercurial fretfulness of Ghostie and the slow, steady pessimism of Ghoulie. The peak of vocal achievement was reached when Ghostie did his "freezing" screech, an eldritch sound which only schoolboy lungs could produce.

Mechanically the play was less satisfying. The cast had perhaps given less time to practising manipulation than to other aspects of the production. Some of the movement appeared unduly stilted and was inclined to distract the audience's attention from the play. In particular Father at one juncture was in great trouble with his strings. To offset this criticism it must be said that the manipulation of the skeleton, which divided and joined again in mid-air, was very convincing indeed.

Taken as a whole, this was the best performance seen by your correspondent in two years at Rendcomb. However, if the puppeteers are seeking ground for further development of their technique, there are two recommendations which occur: the writing down of the dialogue to avoid the incidence of remarks out of character, and further study of the actual manipulation of the puppets.

### RUGGER REPORT, 1956.

Five years ago rugger was reinaugurated at Rendcomb after about twenty-five years of soccer and in this, the fifth season, three landmarks were reached. The first and most important was that the juniors started playing rugger. Although an experiment it was very successful and it is hoped that at the end of the experimental three years it will become a permanent arrangement. The second landmark was that a Junior XV was formed (see notes on Junior XV and Second Game), and the third was that the First XV was unbeaten. In these five years the First XV have played 21 matches. Fifteen of these have been won, 1 drawn and 5 lost. In the last three years it has won 13 matches out of 15. The Second XV (started three years ago) has won 5 out of 8. The weather was very kind, only two games days were rained off, and it was dry every games day until October 31st, by when two of our stiffest matches were behind us.

The general standard of play in first game was high and prospects for the future are not dull. Although the second XV was not very successful in matches, several individuals were of first XV calibre and four of them turned out in the first XV. Most of the credit for the first game and for the results of the first XV must go to Mr. F'. Haywood, whose work is greatly appreciated.

The first XV, as stated above, was unbeaten. The pack was heavy, but, despite its weight, surprisingly nimble in attack and on the whole solid in defence. The backs were more co-ordinated and penetrative than in recent years, giving an absolutely first class performance at Cheltenham against the College 3rd XV. There was one large deficiency in the team and that was a good place kicker. I. A. N. Campbell had a long kick but was usually inaccurate, whereas H. A. Gough was accurate but lacked length. S. R. Merrett could have filled this gap but his accuracy came too late in the term. On conversions alone 46 points were dropped in the six matches played.

I. A. N. Campbell played as prop forward and made an immense improvement on last year's form. In the line-out he was very good, using his height well. His handling was safe, he had

a controlled dribble and his tackling was up to the general high standard of the pack. S. R. Merrett played in the middle of the front row for the first four matches, losing his position to M. A. B. Forster when the latter had recovered from an injury. Both were useful in the loose, Merrett being slightly the more boisterous but Forster hooked much more cleanly in the tight. R. F. Stimson was the other prop forward. Although tall he is not heavy and thus relied on speed more than weight. He did perhaps lack some of the finesse of the other forwards but could always be relied upon to keep going till no-side.

Both the lock forwards were large and heavy. R. W. Taylor was fast in the loose but had little control of the ball, whereas J. B. R. Browne was slower but surer. Taylor was adept at breaking through the oppositions' lineout and with more control of the ball when it is on the ground he will make a first-class forward. When Browne had the ball in his hands he was very difficult to stop and was responsible for many of the forwards' passing movements. His tackling was strong but his falling hesitant.

After three years sterling service at scrum-half C. H. Thomason moved to open-side wing forward. Very few tries were scored against us this year (one in fact) and this was undoubtedly connected with Thomason's ability to stop three quarter movements before they had really begun. He played on the wing against Wycliffe and showed that he is capable of some strong running.

M. G. Cooper led the pack from the No. 8 position. He possessed a remarkable amount of pluck and resilience and was always very prominent in the loose. As a pack leader he was first class and his instructions were always clear, concise and intelligent. He developed into an open rucker admirer and helped to get several back movements going. He was also a very active and instructive member of the Games Committee.

R. D. White could quite well be termed Rendcomb's 'utility forward'. He was in fact the regular choice for blind side wing forward but deputised at lock and open-side. He was a consistent player but should watch the off-sides. R. D. Comley deputised at blind side when White was absent and can consider himself unlucky that there were so many good class forwards. He had a devastating tackle.

The tallest member of the team was J. R. Ellis the regular scrum-half. His service, at first short, lengthened as the term progressed and he developed a close understanding with his out-side-half. His defence was on the whole solid. R. F. Stebbing deputised for Ellis when the latter was doing examinations. A newcomer to the position he developed quickly and in the last match played most competently. R. J. Lawson moved from the

centre to stand-off half and quickly settled into the position. His tackling and falling on the ball were hesitant but his passing and handling were good and his kick in defence well timed.

J. D. R. Paine at inside centre scored 5 tries in the first two matches but then failed to score again. However, those tries he did score were against the teams with the weakest defences and after these matches he fed his outsides consistently. He improved a lot as the season progressed and teamed up well with B. R. Paish at outside centre. Paish had a tight defence and his running was capable of turning defence into attack very quickly. He was adept at picking up a rolling ball, but occasionally allowed the final pass to go astray.

A. P. Hayes on the left wing ran beautifully when in possession. He had quick acceleration and a very deceptive body swerve. His tackling improved but is still weak but his falling on the ball is safe. J. F. W. Beard on the right was an exceptionally strong runner and difficult to bring down. His defence was weak however and must be improved. J. A. Richards deputised on the left wing against Wycliffe. His running was strong but his acceleration was slow and his handling suspect.

H. A. Gough captained the side notably well from full back. He instilled the spirit of attack which was a great feature of the season's play. His own standards were very high, although he was occasionally guilty of a high tackle. His positional play and catching were excellent and his defensive kicking was even more impressive. He has not a powerful kick but he wastes none of it outside the touch line. It was an unusual sight to see a Rendcomb full-back up in attack, but Gough came near to scoring tries on several occasions and was a great source of worry to opponents' defences.

Once again it is pleasant to record that the captain's off-the-field arrangements were carried out most pleasantly and efficiently.

## RESULTS.

Sat., Oct. 13th. v. Dean Close 2nd XV. Away.

Won 19 pts. (2 goals, 3 tries)—0 pts.

The forwards' play in this match was so forceful that Rendcomb attacked incessantly. Lawson opened the scoring with a try between the posts which Gough converted. Just before halftime Paine scored an unconverted try wide out. In the second half tries came from Paish and Paine, Gough converting the latter. Paish added another unconverted try before time. The half-back partnership of Ellis and Lawson had a satisfactory introduction to match play.

Sat., Oct. 20th. v. Cheltenham College 3rd XV. Away.

Won 29 pts. (1 goal, 8 tries)—0 pts.

This was the best display of rugger that the first XV put up this season. The forwards played well but for once the backs played even better. Paine scored an early try wide out and before half-time further tries had been scored by Browne, Beard and Paine. In the second half Rendcomb played as a team and the backs cut through a hesitant defence time and again. Hayes, making his first appearance, scored three splendid tries. Paine and Beard scored the other two. Merrett converted one but in fairness to the kickers it must be pointed out that all but three of the tries were scored in the corners.

Sat., Oct. 27th. v. Marlborough College 3rd XV. Away.

Won 17 pts. (1 goal, 1 try, 3 pen. goals)—0 pts.

Once again the forwards had a good day and although beaten in the tight, they fought in the loose, covered up and counterattacked so well that Rendcomb's line was never in danger. Campbell opened the scoring with a penalty goal from very wide out and later on Gough kicked another. Just before half-time Thomason scored between the posts after a break by Ellis. Gough converted. In the second half Gough kicked another penalty goal and Ellis score an unconverted try after a fine dribble by Thomason.

Sat., Nov. 3rd. v. Cheltenham College 3rd XV. Home.

Won 17 pts. (1 goal, 4 tries)—6 pts. (2 pen. ).

Due to ineffective place-kicking and bad handling, Rendcomb were only six points up at the interval. Just after the start Campbell hit the post with a beautiful attempt at a penalty goal and before the same player scored the first try, Gough had hit the bar with a drop-kick. Hayes scored also before half-time. Early in the second half the lead was reduced but this stimulated Rendcomb to greater efforts and 11 points were quickly added from tries by Beard (converted by Gough), Lawson and Hayes. The scoring ended with another Cheltenham penalty goal.

Sat., Nov. 24th. v. Wycliffe College 2nd XV. Home.

Won 12 pts. (4 tries)—8 pts. (1 goal, 1 pen. ).

A much disorganised Rendcomb side lasted the pace better and just won. Campbell opened the scoring with a try wide out, but Rendcomb were trailing 5—3 at half-time. After the interval Rendcomb took the lead through tries by Paish and Forster and although Wycliffe added a penalty, Cooper made the game safe by diving over after some scrappy play near the opponents' line.

Sat., Dec. 18. v. Kingham Hill 1st XV. Home.

Won 17 pts (1 goal, 4 tries)—0 pts.

Some of the play in this match was remarkable considering the state of the pitch and the slippery ball. Kingham had bad luck early on when Browne intercepted a penalty kick with his hand, causing a change in the flight of the ball, which hit the bar. Rendcomb went ahead when Gough kicked a penalty goal and then Beard rounded off a three-quarter movement by running 75 yards to touch down. After the interval Rendcomb defended for long periods, but further points came from two unconverted tries by Thomason and a try by Cooper converted by Gough. The game ended with Rendcomb on the attack.

### The Second XV.

The second XV was unfortunate in that every time it was due to play, a member of the first XV was unfit and thus the 2nd had to be weakened. The forwards were fairly heavy but were too slow. In the loose there was a lack of ideas behind the moves and it took too long to convert attack into defence. The half-backs gave the three-quarters a good start, but the ball always seemed to move backwards and far too often ground was lost through three quarter movements. The defence in the back division was however, very tight, especially in the the last match. J. A. Richards captained the side from open-side wing and coupled his knowledge of the game with a great amount of tact. S. R. Merrett and R. D. Comley, who both also played for the first team, formed a formidable second row especially in defence. G. H. G. Herbert was very boisterous in the loose and possessed a long place kick. D. R. G. Griffiths and P. G. S. Airey were useful in the line-outs and Griffiths when in possession ran strongly. D. W. Brown hooked quickly in the tight but seemed at a loss in the loose, whilst C. Handoll, who played at blind side wing forward, quickly learned his job, being especially good at keeping on-side in the tight. R. F. Stebbing and R. C. Pilkington proved themselves a capable half-back pair. With a little more experience and confidence they could well fill the half-back positions in next year's first fifteen. P. G. Auden and M. van den Driessche both passed the ball quickly to the wings where J. R. Alder and R. Bolton- King, although good in defence lacked penetration. M. R. Horton caught the ball and kicked well at full-back, but his fielding and defensive work were erratic and hesitant. A. K. Bowley substituted at scrum-half when Stebbing was playing for the first. P. Gilbert and J. B. Gooch also played on occasion.

## RESULTS.

Sat., Oct. 13th. v. Dean Close 3rd XV. Away.

Lost 3 pts. (1 penalty goal)—31 pts.

A very inexperienced weakened team completely broke down against the opposition. Herbert kicked the penalty goal.

Sat., Oct. 27th. v. Marlborough College 4th XV. Away.

Lost 0 pts. —22 pts.

Once again a weakened team had to be fielded, but it was bad tackling which let Rendcomb down after a promising start.

Sat., Nov. 24th. v. Wycliffe College 3rd XV. Home.

Lost 0 pts. —29 pts.

This display was very poor and although a few people played well in defence, notably Pilkington and Merrett, no-one tried to start the attack working.

Sat., Dec. 8th. v. Kingham Hill 2nd XV. Home.

Won 20 pts. (1 goal, 4 tries, 1 pen. )—8 pts.

Rendcomb were winning by 20 pts. to 3 pts. at the interval through tries by Richards (2), Bolton-King, Griffiths and Alder. Merrett converted one and scored a penalty goal. Although Kingham Hill added five points after the interval, Rendcomb were easy victors.

### The Junior XV and Second Game.

Arranging fixtures for a Junior XV is one of the major difficulties of the season. It has been proved virtually impossible to match a team, on paper, against one from Cheltenham College. Last year we took far too strong a side to Cheltenham; this year we went to the other extreme and were soundly beaten by a team which had already played several fixtures and which was much fitter and faster than ours. It is to our credit that we did not collapse in the face of far superior opposition and that, in spite of the score we were playing better at the end than at the beginning. We were fortunate in being able to arrange a return fixture with a weaker team, which gave us a close game and invaluable experience. Although we played an incomparably better game in the second match our attack was still undeveloped and confined to individual effort insufficiently supported. There was good defensive play, notably by D. A. Hodges, M. D. Naish, J. Shaw, R. A. Cockrell, I. S. C. Airey and H. E. Gough.

It is heartening to note that after half-term, co-ordinated attack, especially by forwards, improved greatly as did the whole

pace of second game. It is to be regretted that a third match could not be arranged in the last month of term. Throughout the term the whole game played with vigour and understanding. We must thank and congratulate Mr. D. de G. Sells for laying a rugger foundation in the middle school which augurs well for the future.

Team. —H. E. Gough; M. C. Jones, R. A. Cockrell, J. A. van Coillie, P. B. Heppleston; J. Shaw, G. J. Taylor; M. Whittering, S. D. Hicks, D. R. Poole; M. D. Naish (Capt. ), I. S. C. Airey; D. M. Tucker, D. A. Hodges, R. P. S. Harrison.

#### RESULTS.

Sat. Oct. 20th. v. Cheltenham College Yearlings. Away.

Lost 0—48.

Sat., Nov. 3rd. v. Cheltenham College Yearlings. Home.

Lost 3—9.

The third game consisted of a bunch of juniors most of whom were new to the game. After a few weeks of learning the fundamentals under Mr. Haywood, Mr. Sells, the Games Captain and the Games Committee, they began to have games. At the end of term this game was progressing well and everyone concerned had tried more than one position. Several promising players emerged, notably J. M. Webb, J. C. Malpass, R. C. Jones, A. D. Heppleston, M. A. Gooding, D. J. Tovey, R. A. D. Laws, D. G. Griffiths and J. R. Marshall.

We would like to thank very much the groundsmen under the direction of S. R. Merrett for a term of competent work, and also the domestic staff under the supervision of Miss B. J. Babington, for excellent teas at home matches.

#### LIBRARY BOOKS.

Last term the reviewer of the new Library books lamented the lack of novels in the Library. This term there can be no complaints. About a year ago the General Meeting decided to give two pounds a term for the purchase of fiction. For a variety of reasons the Librarians had not been able to go into Cheltenham for the first two terms to choose any books. This meant that when they went in last term they had six pounds available. The money was spent on a wide variety of titles, although books exclusively for the juniors were not included.

For the middle school, and (we hope) the lighter moments only of the V1th form, there were C. S. Forester's "Captain Horn- blower," Graham Greene's "The Confidential Agent" and Hammond Innes' "The Mary Deare". The Forester comprises three stories, "The Happy Return," "A Ship of the Line," and "Fly-

ing Colours," dealing with his command of the "Lydia" in the Pacific, the "Sutherland" in the Mediterranean, and his escape across France and triumphant return. The popularity of the Horn-blower books rests on a solid foundation; not only are the stories themselves exciting and well told, and the details of naval life filled in realistically, but in Hornblower himself Forester has created a character whom we like and admire. The man of great ability struggling to keep up a pose of imperturbability is very human.

Graham Greene's book is described as an entertainment, and is indeed a much lighter book than "The Power and the Glory" or "The Quiet American". There are many people who dislike his treatment, but his skill as a writer cannot be denied. The unprepossessing figure of D is developed into a sympathetic character. The contrast between the misery of the war and the happiness of his earlier university life is brilliantly done.

"The Mary Deare" is a welcome addition. Mr. Innes has been unjustly neglected in the Library; there is only one other book of his whereas there are eight by Neville Shute, a comparable writer. He has a straight-forward method which compares favourably with Mr. Shiite's moral, political and often vindictive trappings. "The Mary Deare" is a sea-story of fraud and false insurance on an old vessel and of the efforts to unmask the crime and clear a man's name.

In contrast to these were two books of much greater weight—John Steinbeck's "East of Eden" and Alan Paton's "Cry the Beloved Country". "East of Eden" must surely be regarded as one of the great books of this century. Its contrast with Steinbeck's other great book "The Grapes of Wrath" is considerable. "The Grapes of Wrath" was a book of hardship, bitterness and suffering contrasted with the humanity of the homeless people. "East of Eden" is closely linked with the story of Cain and Abel, and it is the constant recurring of this theme which gives the book its remarkable unity. Once again we see Steinbeck's obvious love of people, the dreamy Adam; the lovable, clever, impecunious Samuel Hamilton; the intelligent compassionate Lee, the brothers Caleb and Aron. But above all it is the whole impression of the people, the subtle interweaving of human relations which gives the book its power. It is a book that can be read over and over, finding new things each time.

"Cry the Beloved Country" is in many ways similar to "The Grapes of Wrath". It is a story of a people oppressed by something they can barely understand; it has the same human warmth, the same compassionate treatment. It is a plea against the un-Christian doctrine of racial segregation of South Africa, but is more vivid than any bitter political pamphlet. It is more effective

even than Father Huddleston's "Naught For Your Comfort" because of its compassion and humanity. It is a novel of permanent value as well as a sharp exposure of a contemporary oppression.

Three books of a humorous nature were bought. Stephen Potter's "One—Upmanship" is a brilliantly clever description of what the initiate might regard as a philosophy of life. The consistent application of the principles of "One—Upmanship" (which we have on occasion seen practised here) is a fascinating occupation, and the book is all the more amusing in that it is not pure fantasy. Ogden Nash's "Good Intentions" is a brilliant collection of witty verses. His skill in handling rhythms and rhymes gives him a great variety of verse in which to put his observations. His verse is not merely funny; it has much that is penetrating and even profound in it, raising it above the level of purely comic verse. The third book is Dylan Thomas' "Under Milk Wood", the play for voices written for the B. B. C. It is a representation of a day in the life of a small Welsh town, a picture painted in words. But it is more than this for its humour, compassion and insight make it a picture of humanity. The language is voluptuous, rolling in a musical leisureliness for line after line.

In addition to these the College has also decided to spend a certain amount each term on novels for the junior school. The first dozen were bought this term, and the rush to take them out proved the need for such books. Among them were the "Cadet Edition" of "The Cruel Sea" and the junior edition of "A Pattern of Islands". We are grateful to Miss D. H. Lee-Browne for the generous gift of about twenty books for juniors, including a whole group by M. E. Atkinson and Geoffrey Trease.

Other novels obtained during the term were John Steinbeck's "The Pearl," a moving and simple story of a Mexican pearl-fisher, Neville Shute's "Pied Piper", about a party of children in France at the beginning of the war. The science section was represented by Reginald Harrison's "Bird Watching for Everybody" and "The Rambler's Guide to Flowers". The only History book was G. R. Elton's "England under the Tudors". This is an important book on the subject and has already become a Bible for historians. Mr. Elton is a controversialist, intent on putting forward new theories. His book abounds with phrases such as "it used to be said that," "older historians maintained". Many of his propositions are taken too far; the chapter on Paternalism seems rather strained. But it is nonetheless an important book. The part played by Thomas Cromwell is perhaps over emphasised but is nonetheless extremely valuable and a major work of re-interpretation; and the description of the change from "household" to "bureaucratic" methods of government is very important.

## NEW GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.

### Classical.

This term the Meeting bought three long-playing records. A most popular addition was a recording of the Violin Concerto and two Romances for Violin by Beethoven in which the soloist is Bronislaw Gimpel. The performance of the concerto is very fine, Gimpel bringing style, neat phrasing, rhythmic sensitivity and a faultless technique to his rendering. He avoids the common fault of taking the first movement too slowly and thus makes the intended contrasting effect with the slow movement. A feeling of innocent joy is infused in the Finale and it is probably here that he is at his finest. The recording has the great merit of clarity and also of perfect balance between soloist and orchestra from beginning to end. Possibly there is a lack of deep bass and occasionally the tone of the soloist is made to sound a little tight, but these are small defects and hardly mar an outstanding overall picture. The Romances, too, are played just as well as the Concerto and help to make the record first class value for money.

A further record purchased by the Meeting contains two works by Sibelius. They are the Symphony No. 5 and a little known work entitled "Night-Ride and Sunrise". The performance of the symphony is again a good one although at times there is a noticeable lack of intensity in the string playing. It may well be that the strings of the orchestra are not quite strong enough to give the last ounce of power to Sibelius's more strenuous passages. The other work "Night-Ride and Sun Rise" is not one of his best scores. There is little general cumulative force in its monotonously repeated rhythms and figures and it never seems to come to life. The recordings, however, of both works, are of a very high quality.

Schumann's 4th Symphony completes the list of Meeting purchases. This is the original version of the symphony, in which form it would have been No. 2, had not Schumann been forced by a bad performance to revise it as No. 4. The orchestration is light and clear (we learn from the sleeve that the texture of the later version is opaque and muddy, the result of an attempt by Schumann to avoid the danger of missed entries by unreliable players). The playing is not always distinguished, sometimes lacking sensitiveness and a uniformly concentrated rhythm, but nevertheless it is always clear cut and vigorous. We must be grateful that a record of such interest, if only adequately played and recorded, has been made available to us.

The College's sole addition was a recording of symphonies No. 2 and 3 (unfinished) by Borodin. These works, and especially the Unfinished, are given very fine performances under

Nicolai Malko. The orchestral playing is well disciplined and Malko seems to extract plenty of glowing colour from the scores. The recordings, too, are well managed—only the bass is a little ill-defined. Undoubtedly this record has done and will continue to give a great deal of pleasure.

### Jazz.

“Turk Murphy’s Jazz Band” is the title of the 10 inch M. P. bought at the end of the last term. For those of us who are getting a surfeit of Kid Ory and his “Klaxon-horn” trombone, this record came as both a relief and a pleasant surprise. A relief because Turk plays with such a clean fresh tone and a pleasant surprise because taking the lead on trumpet is Bob Scobey.

Bob Scobey is a musician from whom a lot is expected and on this record we are not disappointed. Original solos and a beautiful tone are the characteristics of this young trumpeter, who proves himself to be the perfect partner. It is a pity that the clarinettist, Bill Napier, does not come up to the standard set by the brass, for his clarinet is dull and sounds just out of tune on many of the solos. How we wish for Darnell Howard here, for surely these three would form as fine a front line as any in the world.

The rhythm is relaxed and pleasant with the tuba substituting for the bass on some of the numbers. To complete the band, on piano is Burt Bales, an ‘unknown quantity’ to many of us, who proves himself to be a first class pianist with many startling solos. Of the numbers played on the record five are new to us. There are two vocal spots for Turk but, unlike many jazz singers, his voice is not really objectionable. “Trombone-Rag” Turk’s tour de force; “Waiting for the Robert E. Lee” with a “Jelly” Roll Morton type of introduction; “Curse of an Aching Heart” with a Turk vocal; and “Struttin’ with Some Barbecue”, with Bob Scobey excelling, are all popular tracks.

A new or ‘different’ type of music, was introduced to the Meeting cabinet in “Barrel House” a 7 inch E. P. of Johnny Parker and His Band. The band play three “Blues” and one “outsider” and consists of three members of Humphrey Lyttleton’s Band, Johnny Parker on piano; bass player Jim Bray, and washboards and drummer Stan Grieg, and one “outsider”, guitarist Deny Wright. All the numbers played—“Canine Stomp”, “No. 69” (or is it ‘96’?), “The Fox’s Tail”, and “Up There”, are very- attractive, very restful and have become very popular. All four instrumentalists play effective solos especially Deny Wright, “in the style a la swinging sister herself”! Johnny Dankworth and his Orchestra blare their way through “Applecake” (Parlophone 78 r. p. m.) and provide a pleasant piece of nonsense on the other side in “Experiments with Mice”.

## “HAMLET” AT STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

On Monday, October 1st, 1956, a VIth form party attended the evening performance of “Hamlet” at the Memorial Theatre, Stratford.

The curtain rose on a very straightforward stage setting, which consisted simply of an octagonal wooden platform, over which a long, thin, blue drape hung ominously. Apart from two thrones and a red carpet in the play scene, and the carpenter’s wheelbarrow in the grave-digging scene, this combination remained throughout the full three hours of the performance. The wisdom of deciding upon such a simple stage setting is naturally a matter of opinion; but in “Hamlet” there are many scene changes and relatively few of Shakespeare’s customary indications of the scene are inserted in the text. A large proportion of the stage effects had, then, to be obtained by the myriad of spotlights and footlights which surrounded the stage. The lighting effects were often superb; yet it seems a pity that the ghost’s fading into the background could not have been manoeuvred a little more successfully.

Although it is only a small part, the presentation of the ghost of King Hamlet can do much to influence one’s opinion of the early stages of the play. In this production, the ghost was not very impressive—although he maintained a wonderful kingly dignity throughout; he moved far too solidly, and in the revealing scene where Hamlet talks alone with his father, it was not easy to distinguish ‘the quick and the dead’.

Hamlet, as portrayed by Alan Badel, was the perfect blending of all the human emotions which one expects in this character. His main failure lay in his excitable nature, which ultimately led to a quickening of his speech and to a display of too much hysteria in his ravings. His madness after his meeting with the ghost of his father was not very apparent; a person without a reasonable knowledge of the text might have had difficulty in realising it.

The madness of Ophelia (Dilys Hamlett), on the other hand, was very well done and was, at times, realistically embarrassing. Her skipping entry with her hair dishevelled, and the wonderful pathetic ditties which she sang in a weak, piping voice held the audience spellbound.

Harry Andrews, as Claudius, deserves high praise. By nature a handsome and powerful character, he kept a magnificent regal bearing and an admirable crystal-clear diction throughout the play, though at several points in his soliloquies he was obviously rather stale. His reactions to the dumb-show were most convincing; the emotion which he infused into his movements served well

to illustrate the shame which the King feels over the murder of his brother.

There was nothing very striking about the Queen, played by Diana Churchill. She has not a great deal to say of importance in the play; her speeches are usually of a trivial and distinctly maternal nature. Her account of the drowning was well delivered and her words and gestures whilst strewing flowers on Ophelia's grave were very touching, but on the whole she was overshadowed by the stronger personalities of her husband and son.

Of the minor characters, George Howe as Polonius is most worthy of note. He played this very verbose and innocently exasperating character extremely well, and provided a little light relief in an otherwise very serious play. His doddering movements and his fumbings with coins and dispatches were excellent.

The Gonzago play, particularly the dumb-show, was most entertaining. As 'the leperous distilment' was poured into the ears of the Player King, a most weird and fascinating accompaniment was provided by the recorder, lute, 'cello and drums of the minstrels hovering in the background. The duel scene was, however, disappointing. The paths of both the 'anointed' rapier and the "poisoned chalice" was very confused and hard to follow. The sword-play, too, seemed to lack spirit and was very second-rate.

The production as a whole was not outstanding. Here and there throughout the performance was evidence of mediocrity—it seemed to lack the ingenuity and lustre which one comes to associate with the Memorial Theatre.

R. D. C.

NATURAL HISTORY SUPPLEMENT.

March, 1957.

Moths of the Rendcomb District, Part Two.  
(See introduction, Vol. 11, No. 1. December, 1956).

**Agrotidae.**

**Caradrinidae.**

(Noctuidae).

Tussoc Cloak. Nut-tree Tussock. *Colocasia coryli*.

Miller Dagger. *Apatele leporina*.

Poplar Dagger. Poplar Grey. *A. megacephala*.

Alder Dagger. *A. alni*.

Dark Dagger. *A. tridens*.

Grey Dagger. *A. psi*.

Knot-grass Dagger. *A. rumicis*.

Ash Dagger. Coronet Moth. *Craniophora ligustri*.

Marbled Lichen. Marbled Beauty. *Cryphia perla*.

Turnip Dart. Turnip Moth. *Agrotis segetum*.

Feathered Dart. Light Feathered Rustic. *A. cinerea*.

Small Dart. Shuttle-shaped Dart. *A. puta*.

Plain Dart. Heart and Dart. *A. exclamationis*.

Dark Dart. Dark Sword-grass. *A. ipsilon*. *A. ypsilon*.

Pearly Owlet. Pearly Underwing. *Peridroma porphyrea*. *P. saucia*.

Stout Owlet. Stout Dart. *Spaelotis ravida*.

Dull Owlet. Double Dart. *Graphiophora augur*.

Lunar Clay. Setaceous Hebrew Character. *Amathes c-nigrum*. Six-  
striped Clay. Six-striped Rustic. *A. sexstrigata*. *A. umbrosa*.

Common Clay. Square-spot Rustic. *A. xanthographa*.

Purple Clay. *Diarsia brunnea*.

Ingrailed Clay. *D. festiva*.

Flame Clay. Flame Shoulder. *Ochropleura plecta*.

Lesser Yellow Underwing. *Triphaena comes*.

The Yellow Underwing. Large Yellow Underwing. *T. pronuba*. Dark

Yellow Underwing. Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing. *T. janthina*.

Great Yellow Underwing. Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing.  
*Lampra fimbriata*.

Flame. *Axylia putris*.

Green Arches. *Anaplectoides prasina*.

Shining Arches. Pale Shining Brown. *Polia nitens*. *P. advena*. Grey Arches. *P. nebulosa*.

Cabbage Moth. *Mamestra brassicae*.

Dot Moth. *Melanchnra persicariae*.

Brown Brocade. Bright-line Brown-eye. *Diataraxia oleracea*. Chestnut Brocade. Broom Moth. *Ceramica pisi*.

Light Brocade. *Hadena w-latinum*. *H. genistae*.

Pale-shouldered Brocade. *H. thalassina*.

Beautiful Brocade. *H. contigua*.

White Hawksbeard. Broad-barred White. *H. serena*.

Brown Champion. The Lynchis. *H. bicurris*.

Feathered Tracery. Feathered Gothic. *Tholera popularis*.

Stout Tracery. Hedge Rustic. *T. cespitis*.

Antler Tracery. Antler Moth. *Cerapteryx graminis*. *Charaeas graminis*.

Straw Tracery. Straw Underwing. *Thalpopphila malura*.

Brindled Green. *Dryobotodes protea*. *Dryobota protea*.

Figure of Eight. *Episema caeruleocephala*.

Flounced Rustic. *Luperina testacea*.

Grey Stoneling. Grey Chi. *Antitype Chi*.

Sprawler. *Brachyonycha sphinx*.

Dark Crescent. Dark Brocade. *Eumichtis adusta*.

Brindled Crescent. Green-brindled Crescent. *Allophyes oxycan- thae*.

Lichen Crescent. Merveille du Jour. *Griposia aprilina*.

Small Angleshades. *Euplexia lucipara*.

Angleshades. *Phlogophora meticulosa*.

Old Lady. *Mormo mama*.

Gothic. *Phalaena typica*.

Shoulderknot Brindle. Rustic Shoulder-knot. *Apamea sordens*.

Clouded-bordered Brindle. *A. crenata*. *Xylophasia crenata*.

Light Brindle. Light Arches. *Apamea lithoxyla*. *Xylophasia lithoxyla*.

Dark Brindle. Dark Arches. *Apamea monoglypha*. *Xylophasia monoglypha*.

Common Major. Common Rustic. *Apamea secalis*. *Celaena secalis*.

Marbled Minor. *Procus strigilis*.

Rosy Minor. *P. literosa*. *Miana literosa*.

Common Ear. Ear Moth. *Hydraecia oculea*.

Rosy Ear. Rosy Rustic. *H. micacea*.

Orange Ear. Frosted Orange. *Gortyna flavago*.  
To be continued.

C. Handoll.

### **Miscellaneous Notes, September 1st to December 31st, 1956.**

Fungi are notoriously difficult to identify due to individual variation within the species and to the frequent need for microscopic examination of the spores. Many larger species however, can be determined fairly easily and the past autumn produced a wide variety of fungal fruiting bodies, of which the following from near Rendcomb may be mentioned:

*Amanita phalloides*: This, the 'Death-cap', is the most poisonous of fungi. Several were found in September growing under large beeches in Conigre Wood.

*Laccaria laccata*: The typical form of this species is of a drab brown or fawn colour but it has a common and rather lovely variety which is entirely purple when moist and known as *var. amethystina*. Both forms were common in woods this autumn.

*Hygrophorus calyptraeformis*: Specimens of this, one of the most beautiful of fungi, were found on two occasions under beeches in Conigre Wood. The whole fruit body is a pale, translucent rose-pink in colour and like other members of the genus looks almost as though modelled from wax.

*H. eburneus*: An entirely white species growing abundantly and conspicuously in the darker parts of the woods, and this year in great quantity.

*H. ceraceus*: This is entirely waxy-yellow in appearance and was common this year on Kennel Bottom and North Cerney Banks.

*Tricholoma personation*: Several of the edible 'Blewit' were found on Kennel Bottom Banks in September.

*Ganoderma applanatum*: This is the common Beech Bracket fungus and a fine growth of it was seen by many members of the College on a large beech down the Cirencester Drive.

*Clavaria pistillaris*: The pale brown clubs of this species were to be seen in great numbers in Conigre Wood this autumn. Growing to several inches in height they were a conspicuous, although a somewhat unusual feature of the woodland ground-flora.

*Geaster triplex*: Several 'Earth-stars' of this species were found under beeches in Conigre Wood in late October and attracted the interest of many. The curious star-like structure which surrounds the central spore-containing sphere gives a most unusual appearance to a fungus of this genus.

#### **Birds.**

Observations on birds were not numerous during the year. Mr. Ben Legg showed me a duck Teal which had been killed against telephone wires at Marsden in early September. The species is not seen very often in this district. Redwings and Fieldfares have been very scarce over much of the Cotswolds this autumn, but a number of Bramblings turned up at Rendcomb in late October to feed for a month on the plentiful supply of fallen beech 'mast'. Siskins also arrived at the end of October and fed for more than a fortnight in the alders along the river below the College. Ten was the maximum number seen.

The rather mild autumn weather resulted in a volume of bird song rather greater than usual for the time of year. Song Thrushes and Robins sang a great deal, and more unusual were snatches of song from two cock Chaffinches and a Stock Dove in late November. Greater Spotted Woodpeckers were heard 'drumming' at Rendcomb on several days in late October and early November, a most unusual occurrence.

C. M. Swaine, B. Sc.