

RENDCOMB
COLLEGE
CHRONICLE

Vol. 11, No. 5.

March, 1958

Rendcomb College Chronicle

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March 1958

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COLLEGE DIARY.

Christmas Term, 1957.

September

18. —Term begins.

October

14. —Members of VIth Form visit Stratford for a performance of “Cymbeline” at the Memorial Theatre.

16. —A small party visits Stroud Parish Church to see a modern morality play, “The Firstborn.”

22. —Mr. Henry Milton, the Magician, gives a performance in Big School.

23. —In the Library: Debate on the Motion “That the best prospects for youth lie abroad.”

November

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4/—Long Leave.

22. —Debate on the Motion “That this House approves of a policy of more work for less pay.”

26. —Seniors visit Stratford-on-Avon to see a performance of “The Tempest.”

December

4. —Debate: “That Television has invaded the Englishman’s Castle and ought to be driven out.”

14. —Christmas Party.

15. —Carol Service.

18. —Term ends.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Easter Term, 1958.

Senior Prefect—S. R. Merrett.

Group Leaders—D. W. Brown, I. A. N. Campbell, C. Handoll, M. A. B. Forster.

College Workman—R. D. Comley. †Public Workman—R. F. Stebbing.

Music Warden—D. W. Brown.
 Librarians—S. R. Merrett, I. A. N. Campbell, J. B. Gooch, D. W. Brown, M. van den Driessche.
 Manual Foremen—R. D. Comley, M. A. B. Forster, D. R. G. Griffiths, D. R. Poole.
 Poultrymen—P. G. Auden, H. E. Gough, D. M. Tucker, G. S. Bartlett, T. C. Bass, C. J. Webb, T. J. Tudge, J. Mitchison.
 †Furniture Committee—J. B. Gooch, T. L. H. Benbow, J. C. Malpass.
 Music Librarian—C. Handoll.
 Choir Librarians—L. de V. Wragg, P. B. Heppleston.
 Stagemen—G. H. G. Herbert, P. G. Auden, P. G. S. Airey, R. F. Stebbing, R. A. Dauncey, N. J. Price, M. Board, D. M. Tucker.
 Pictureman—J. E. Gooding.
 Collections and Deck Chairs—M. Whittering.
 Lampmen—R. F. Stebbing, M. van den Driessche.
 Q. P. Concerts—J. R. Alder.

† General Meeting Elections.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Christmas Term, 1957.

We send our good wishes to R. C. Pilkington, who left early in the term to take up an unexpectedly free place at Trinity College, Dublin; and to R. F. Stimson who left in December.

We welcome the following new boys: R. J. Parnell, J. H. Delefortrie, M. H. Ferguson, D. A. N. Hogarth, T. J. Tudge, K. J. Fowler, M. J. Bartlett, S. Greenlaw, D. J. Henderson, C. G. Jefferies, D. Little, R. S. Lowe, A. B. Mead, J. Mitchison, M. B. Ogilvie, J. R. A. Rawlings, L. A. Webb, R. A. Wynne, E. Taylor.

We are also glad to welcome three new members of the Staff. Mr. A. C. B. Wimbush, who was educated at Charterhouse and Peterhouse, Cambridge, comes to us from Mill Hill School, London, where he has been teaching for some years.

Mr. J. R. D. Salter has been appointed to the new post of full-time Master for Art and Manual. He was at Allhallows School, Rousdon, and later studied at Edinburgh University and the Edinburgh College of Art.

Mr. K. E. Perkins was appointed to take charge of P. T., to help with games and to assist with the work in English and History. As he was not able to take up his appointment until January 1958, his place for the Christmas Term was taken by Mr. J. R. Serine to whom we are grateful for coming to our aid.

Miss G. E. Runge, who until her recent retirement was Head of the Music Department of the Ladies' College, Cheltenham, has joined the visiting music staff.

* * * *

A long-needed improvement has been made in the form of a doorway cut in the wall of the drying room, giving access from the Causeway. The arrangement is advantageous to all concerned.

* * * *

We returned at the end of the holidays to find builders established at the back of the College, complete with portable office, and the erection of the new changing rooms well under way. Since then drains have been laid (and what a morass it is round there in wet weather), the construction of the building itself is almost complete and work has now started on fixing the showers and other appurtenances. It is hoped that the new building will be ready for use in May.

At the request of the builders, Long Leave was lengthened by several hours in order that extensive work on drains and water mains could be completed. Accordingly we left after breakfast on Friday, the 1st of November, instead of after lunch as is usual, but dutifully worked the four missed periods in P. T. on the four successive Tuesdays!

* * * *

The Park is changing. A large number of trees West of the village hill have been sold, and since early autumn there has been daily felling. It is sad to lose familiar features, but trees are not only decorative and beautiful but also utilitarian, and the time comes when in the interests of good husbandry they must be cut down. It would be idle to pretend that we do not regret their going, but in compensation, previously unseen glimpses of countryside are gradually making their appearance. An interesting effect of the trees being removed is that the "wind noises" in and around the College have changed considerably.

There is no doubt that to the passer-by the cutting of most of the timber along the Cheltenham road and of some on the slope

above the Cheltenham drive and the lake, has opened splendid views of both the College and the Valley. But it does make us feel rather exposed and in the public gaze.

* * * *

Three meetings of the Literary Society were held. As in previous terms the policy of devoting two meetings to play reading and one to original compositions was adopted. The first play reading was of T. S. Eliot's "The Family Reunion" and for the second the choice of Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man" proved very popular. However, the original composition meeting was undoubtedly the most successful; a high standard was reached in many of the compositions, and for the first time each member of the Society contributed a piece of his own work.

* * * *

Debates

This term, Mr. D. de G. Sells started the experiment of holding debates in the Library for the Sixth and Fifth Forms. As this venture proved popular, three were held during the term. The motions before the house were: "That the best prospects for youth lie abroad," "That this house approves of a policy of more work for less pay," and "That television has invaded the Englishman's Castle and ought to be driven out."

Only two speakers had taken part in a debate before, and if is therefore all the more notable that the standard of debating was so high. There was no lack of speakers, and on the whole they spoke well. When everyone has acquired a little more experience in the art of debating, a high standard should be reached.

* * * *

We acknowledge with warm thanks the gift for the Library of "The Eighteenth Century Country Parson," by A. Tindal Hart, from the Rev. A. G. Ensor, O. R. The gift is perhaps of particular interest because Ensor contributed to it some material of his own, gathered from the Church chest at Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, where he worked for some time. For two years he was in charge -of the Parish of Long Melford, Suffolk, which has one of the finest churches in East Anglia.

GENERAL MEETING OFFICERS.

Spring Term, 1958.

Chairman—R. D. Comley.

. Secretary—M. van den Driessche.

Games Captain—C. Handoll.
 Field Secretary—J. R. Alder.
 Games Committee—R. D. Comley, I. A. N. Campbell.
 Boys' Banker—R. Bolton King.
 Meeting Banker—R. D. Comley.
 Games Committee Treasurer—J. Shaw.
 House Committee Treasurer—D. R. Poole.
 Finance Committee Treasurer—M. C. Jones.
 Record Committee Treasurer—M. Whittering.
 Auditors—M. A. B. Forster, R. A. Cockrell.
 Senior Shopman—R. A. Dauncey.
 Breakages Man—A. N. Hill.
 Entertainments Committee—J. E. Gooding, T. L. H. Benbow, M.
 Whittering, M. D. Naish, C. C. Richardson. Shopmen—J. T. Wood, M.
 A. Gooding.
 Classical Record Committee—J. R. Alder, M. van den Driessche,
 G. Harrison.
 Light Record Committee—R. W. Taylor, R. F. Stebbing.
 Cycle Committee—P. G. S. Airey, S. D. Hicks. K. H. Stimson.
 Amplifier Technicians—J. B. Gooch, P. G. S. Airey.
 Paperman—N. J. Price.
 Drying Room Committee—G. J. Taylor, M. J. N. Bryant. G. S., Bartlett.
 Finance Committee—M. H. Ferguson, L. Wragg.
 Financial Advisory Committee—J. E. Gooding, D. W. Brown, S. R.
 Merrett.
 Hockey Secretary—I. A. N. Campbell.
 Cricket Secretary—R. A. Cockrell.
 Rugby Secretary—R. Bolton King.
 Hockey Games Wardens—I. S. C. Airey, C. C. Richardson.. Cricket
 Games Warden—R. P. S. Harrison.
 Rugby Games Warden—P. K. Dale.
 Tennis Games Warden—J. A. T. Goodborn.
 Hockey Groundsmen—Head, R. W. Taylor: Senior, J. R.,
 Windsor, S. D. Hicks, M. D. Naish; Junior, G. Sc Bartlett, J.
 R. Marshall.
 Cricket Groundsman—G. Harrison.

Tennis Groundsman—R. A. Dauncey.
Billiards Committee—R. A. Cockrell. R. A. Dauncey, J. Shaw, Sledge
Committee—G. Harrison, J. Shaw, T. J. Tudge. Nominations
Committee—J. E. Gooding, D. W. Brown, I. A. N, Campbell. P. G. S.
Airey, S. R. Merrett.
Selection Committee—J. E. Gooding, M. A. B. Forster, C. Handoll,
D. W. Brown, D. R. G. Griffiths.
Rule Committee—J. E. Gooding, R. D. Comley, D. W. Brown.
Council—R. D. Comley, I. A. N. Campbell, M. A. B. Forster, C.
Handoll. D. W. Brown, J. E. Gooding, G. H. G. Herbert.
Magazine Committee—D. W. Brown, J. E. Gooding, G. Harrison.

THE GENERAL MEETING.

Christmas Term, 1957.

Meetings this term were characterised in general by lack of interest. One reason suggested for this was that more work was being done by committees, and thus less business was brought for discussion.

Early in the term it was suggested that the copies of "The Listener," which were bought by the Meeting and kept, should be bound in volumes. Owing to the reorganisation of the Art Room, where it was hoped to bind them, and also to the fact that some copies were missing, it was decided to leave the matter until one complete volume should have accumulated, when the matter would be considered again.

Another attempt was made to change the present system of elections, whereby nominations are made by an ad hoc committee. It was maintained that the Nominations Committee has now served its purpose by making people think before electing Meeting officers. The proposer thought it should be abolished, and in its place a modified form of the original electoral system should be used. This would allow members more freedom in electing officers. The proposal was lost by the narrow margin of three votes.

The seating of the Meeting has been slightly rearranged, the probationers now sitting on the chairman's left instead of in the alcove, where seating was becoming too crowded.

After some discussion, it was decided to permit all members of the Meeting to play microgroove gramophone records on the

Meeting amplifier. Previously only Forms VI and V, and IV with permission, were allowed to do this. Now Forms III, II and I are able to use the records provided permission of a member of the Record Committee has been obtained beforehand.

After the Headmaster had expressed his disapproval at the way in which " Top " was being marked out, a committee of experienced groundsmen was formed to investigate the situation. They made several recommendations, the main one being that in future there should be six groundsmen in the winter terms instead of three as previously. Of these six, four should be of Forms V and VI. These recommendations, which were adopted, should certainly increase the efficiency of marking out.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Was Pope merely being cynical when he wrote of party- spirit being "the madness of many for the gain of a few"? Or had he a shrewd insight into the party milieu? His apophthegm does, however, afford a controversial starting-point for an investigation of that intangible party phenomenon, party-spirit. Though this last-named attribute has of late been somewhat lacking in the senior parts of the school, a recent vote revealed that the large majority of the school want the party to continue. And it is probably true that, while few would admit it, many seniors do in fact enjoy the annual bean-feast, some even succumbing in an unobtrusive way to Pope's *bête-noir*. Party-spirit or no party- spirit, most of the senior and middle forms of the school willingly helped to decorate and arrange the halls and rooms on the afternoon before the party.

Recent committees who have organised the party have been trying to do too much, and, this year especially, some of the evening's features showed the consequent strain. The sketches, for instance, which have tended to become the focal point of the evening's merry-making, were too long, and as a result suffered from lack of rehearsal. It would have been wiser to have cut the length of the show to half the time, and to have concentrated on achieving a more finished product. The essence of a show of this type is that it should be delivered with some measure of piquancy and elan, yet both qualities were lacking. One sketch, however, reached a standard which was commendable. This comprised a song, the " Early Morning Duty Group Blues," with music (part of it plagiarized from a well-known tune!) by Mr. Tooze and lyrics by Mr. Sells. It was sung with considerable feeling by a group of young men.

Yet it must not be thought that the Committee's work was in vain; on the contrary. There were this year more items in addition to the usual dancing, and a real attempt had been made to find more interests for the non-dancers who must inevitably find the evening rather long. A number of intriguing and original competitions had been devised, and these proved so entertaining that the dance floor took on a rather deserted look at one point. Perhaps the most popular item of the evening for dancers and non-dancers alike was an exposition of rock 'n' roll by a group of three boys led by Mr. J. R. Serine, who, in jazz parlance, was "on" piano. His excellent playing was ably backed up by the drums and two guitars. Most people were content to watch the pianist playing "allegro furioso ad libitum," yet there were at least two couples jiving in the background.

Everyone enjoyed the intricate pattern of streamers round the lamp in Saul's Hall; it was most effective.

Recent years had seen a marked decline in the standards of fancy dresses and it is pleasing to record that this year the trend was reversed in no uncertain manner. So much so, in fact, that your Correspondent, clad in his annual garb of check shirt and jeans, felt distinctly out of his class among such ornate figures as a bishop, a Napoleonic soldier and a Spaniard.

Our thanks are once again due to Miss Babington and her cosmopolitan staff, whose handling of the supper and refreshments was, as usual, impeccable. The End-of-Term Entertainments Committee, too, had put all they knew into the party, and on this strength it is difficult to criticise them. Perhaps the fault lies equally with past Committees, who have tended to build up the party to a rather stereotyped nature. It needs a daring Committee to make a complete break with the past, but it is difficult to see what could be done. One thing is certain: the burden of work and responsibility at present lying on the shoulders of this five-man Committee should be lessened. At the time of writing, a special Committee of the General Meeting is considering the matter.

THE CAROL SERVICE.

Apart from the educational "bulge" at national level, from time to time Rendcomb has one that gradually works up the school list. It happens when a large number of seniors leave and the new boys replacing them are all young. Last September this happened and the majority of tenors and basses were among the leavers. At the beginning of the Christmas term therefore the question was understandably asked—what will become of the choir? The apologists were quick to point out that with a smaller

than normal senior school there simply were not the broken voices to choose from, and in any case there was now no one in College who could sing like X or Y or Z!

X, Y and Z certainly had good voices, their services had been valued and they had enjoyed themselves; but they had gone —and although perhaps it was true that their successors could not immediately compare, we would make do with what we had and trust to enthusiasm and hard work.

In the event our fears proved ungrounded. Tenors and basses appeared as if by miracle from Forms IV and V (hitherto considered by ex-trebles to be “ holiday ” forms) and before long the choir began to take shape as an entity, not least because many of the new boys were musical and had potentially good voices.

After initial doubts therefore, plans for the Carol Service went ahead as usual, with the single concession that nothing new should be attempted. Changes were to be rung, so to speak, on previous programmes.

The choir sang well, though at times their enthusiasm seemed to run away with their tempo, and “ Ding Dong Merrily ” raced away at break-neck speed. Nevertheless the tone was good and the articulation clear.

“Past Three O’clock ” was, of course, sung by the choir alone, but the congregation joined them in certain verses and in all the refrains of “ God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen. ” It would be easy, and probably unfair, to say that Sir William Parratt’s difficult eight-part arrangement of “In Dulci Jubilo ” was more than the choir could manage, but it could have done with more rehearsal. “Angels From the Realms of Glory ” and “O Sleep Thou Heaven-born Treasure ” completed their share of the service. The congregation sang with more volume than usual, perhaps because of the very good attendance at a voluntary congregational practice held a few days before.

To the credit of the choir, it must be reported that compliments were more numerous than usual from people who were not likely to have first-hand knowledge of the problems behind the scenes.

NEW GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.

Classical.

Two further works were added to the General Meeting’s collection: Elgar’s Second Symphony, and Dohnany’s Variations on a Nursery Theme; the latter is coupled with Rachmaninov’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini.

The Elgar symphony is played by the Halle Orchestra, under Barbirolli. The spaciousness and magnificence of the interpretation admirably displays the dignity of this work, which is essential and primary in its nature. This fine performance reveals the very "English" nature of Elgar's style. Such an appreciation has been earned, if judged only from the tremendous popularity of this record.

The Rachmaninov Rhapsody, and Dohnany's Variations, have proved themselves very worthwhile purchases. Both works receive brilliant performances. A more cogent performance of Rachmaninov's Variations would be difficult to imagine. The Dohnany's Variations are liked because of their light humour, and Rachmaninov's Variations for their glorious eighteenth variation, of which a more luxuriant rendering is rarely heard. The recording itself is excellent, except for a slight thinness in the strings.

The College added four records to its Library. It replaced its old recording of Brahm's second Piano Concerto, played by Backaus with the Vienna Philharmonic, with a new version by the same artist. Backaus sustains his reputation for his performance of this formidable work. All its breadth and mastery are brought out in the record. Only the finest of pianists can piece together the craggy shapes, and Backaus succeeds. The recording is a considerable artistic achievement, and the quality gradually improves and on the second side is excellent.

Malcolm Arnold's English Dances provide an attractive, and lively record, very pleasing at a first hearing, but very little that is true English about them. The first, for instance, bears traces of Borodin, and the second begins like a French dance. The third and fourth dances are the inferior pair, and the less interesting, but excellent orchestral playing covers this fact. The playing is sprightly, well-controlled and satisfying throughout.

A Suite by Dag Wiren for strings, coupled with Larsson's Pastoral Suite (in which a wind section is included) was bought. The suite by Dag Wiren is played very sensitively and accurately, its humour being brought out to the full. Both works are of the category of light music, and the recording emphasises the whimsical nature of both works. The Stockholm Radio Orchestra entirely comprehends the gaiety of these works, which have been well recorded.

Jazz.

Wilbur de Paris and His Rampart Street Ramblers.

That this band has not achieved the fine degree of unity and precision exemplified in de Paris' more recent recordings with

the New New Orleans Jazz Band is due partly to the uncertainty of the rhythm section. Yet the originality of his numbers and the versatility of his front-line players always makes de Paris's work stimulating.

This record is no exception. The most interesting number is "The Pearls," possibly its only recording since the Morton original in June 1927. Does not the neglect of this fine number stem from the incapacity of the majority of traditional jazzmen to play anything that departs in such a startling way from the traditional jazz genre? At all events, de Paris's musicians are equal to the task, and the work of Don Kirkpatrick on piano and Sidney de Paris on trumpet are especially good. The "Prelude in C sharp minor" appears to be another attempt to reconcile the classics with jazz. As such, it fails, since jazz is an essentially simple repetitive musical form and the more intricate classical theme cannot be improvised upon in the jazz idiom. Only the first few bars of Rachmaninov's Prelude have been adapted, and the band subsequently turns to an entirely different tune. However, solely as a jazz number it is highly entertaining, and contains some fine clarinet riffs from Omer Simeon.

It is disappointing to find this band playing such a hackneyed number as "The Saints," and, moreover, to find them playing it in so uninspired a manner. The only highlights are a muted trumpet solo from Sidney de Paris, and a brief and clever exposition of the theme in the minor key by Wilbur de Paris. Sidney's vocal is stilted and lugubrious, and the increased tempo at the end is a confused and ridiculous piece of showmanship.

Both "The Martinique" and "Très Moutarde" while containing some good playing, are ruined by the recording, which is poor throughout. The former number demonstrates Wilbur's, skill as a composer, and the latter Sidney's agility in a fast number.

Kai Winding and J. J. Johnson Quintet.

After hearing so many present-day traditional jazz bands playing without having made the slightest attempt to rehearse properly, it is a pleasure to review this record. Here is an example of two trombonists with widely differing styles combining to form a perfectly integrated two-man front line. "Mad About the Boy," with its mysterious ascending sustained quarter tones is perhaps the best, but "Thou Swell" and "Lope City," both Johnson's compositions, are excellent. The characteristic of this little group is their freshness and originality. The bassists, Milt Hinton and Wendell Marshall, who each play on two numbers, provide a rocklike foundation for the interwoven improvisations of the trombonists. This quintet has clearly taken the trouble to arrange its numbers and rehearse them efficiently.

Jelly Roll Morton.

This record consists of nine numbers, seven with the “ Red Hot Peppers ” and two piano solos, made by Morton during the years 1926 30. The selection is wide, ranging from “ The Chant ” —the paragon of New Orleans jazz—to “ Harmony Blues, ” which, with a larger band and a relaxed and sentimental clarinet solo from an unknown player, heralds the approaching swing era of the 'thirties. The record provides a good example of Morton as a composer; seven of the numbers are his compositions.

CONJURING WITH CARDS.

In Big School at 8. 15 p. m. on October 22nd, Mr. Henry Milton, a conjuror, entertained a large audience. He had no assistants but several people from the audience were called up to help him. One of his best tricks was to ask members of the audience to select four cards from a fan of a complete pack of cards which were given back to Mr. Milton after being shown to members of the audience by the selector. Mr. Milton then asked them to replace the cards which he put in a container, and the chosen cards miraculously rose up out of the pack while Mr. Milton was standing at least six feet away from it!

In another trick a silk handkerchief was placed over a large ball on a stand and this time the ball rose up underneath the handkerchief. It even started rolling about on the upper side of the handkerchief! However, the conjuror always kept two of the comers of the handkerchief in his hands. At the end of the show he dropped two pieces of golden paper on to a black cloth, then folded the cloth over once and waved it around. When the cloth was unfolded the strips of paper had written themselves (so to speak) to read “Good-bye.” This made an unusual ending to a very enjoyable evening.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

Christmas Term, 1957.

The annual general meeting and London dinner of the Old Rendcombian Society was held at The Cock, Fleet Street, on Saturday, November 23rd, 1957. There was a good gathering and under the able chairmanship of D. C. Terrett, the business meeting was excellent. D. Dakin, the President, guided the dinner with his customary urbanity, and Austen Magor is greatly to be congratulated on the efficiency of his arrangements. Warm

appreciation was expressed of his work as Secretary over the past three years, and it was both a pleasure and a relief to the members present when he agreed to carry on for a further year. C. J. Brisley was selected chairman and M. J. Bedwell vice-chairman for the period 1957-58. It was agreed that in future there shall be two chairmen, representing London and the West of England. The chairman of the whole Society for the year shall be deemed to be the chairman of the area in which the annual general meeting is held.

Regret was expressed at the unavoidable absence of Mr. J. H. Simpson; and Mr. C. H. C. Osborne and Mr. A. G. Granston Richards were given a warm welcome. On this occasion the only toast was that of the College, to which the Headmaster briefly replied. The availability of a pleasant ante-room did much to enhance the extra time that was available for talk after the dinner.

The following were present: J. F. Alder, M. J. Bedwell, A. P. Browning, D. Dakin, N. Dalton, P. L. Field, P. M. Gerrard, D. B. Haes, L. H. Hyett, D. W. Lee-Browne, A. C. Magor, M. H. Combe Martin, J. C. Maslin, E. J. Miller, J. H. A. Muirhead, C. H. C. Osborne, J. D. Painter, N. A. Perkins, J. R. S. Powell, P. D. Quick, F. C. Raggatt, A. G. Granston Richards, A. E. Shield, R. M. Sumsion, C. G. V. Taylor, D. C. Terrett, C. Carus Wilson.

* * * *

The following accepted invitations to the West of England Old Rendcombian Society Dinner at Bristol on Saturday, October 12th, 1957: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Batten, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Binks, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Brain, C. J. Brisley, W. F. Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Curry, Mr. and Mrs. John Eyles, Mr. J. B. Fell, M. R. Hancock, R. H. Jones. Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Lee-Browne, A. C. Magor, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Neal, V. W. Pullin, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Price, Norman Slade, W. F. Smallwood, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Trayhurn.

The evening was an unqualified success and Austen Magor is greatly to be congratulated. We are asked to say that more younger O. R. 's would be greatly welcome at the O. R. dinners.

* * * *

Stephen Beck is teaching at Beaufort Lodge School. Barnet. He is married and has a son.

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We congratulate R. Brain on his promotion to University Farm Director at Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan.

C. Eyles has recently become Chief Postmaster at Trowbridge.

We congratulate J. E. Carus-Wilson and his wife on the birth of a son. John writes from his 60-acre farm in Denmark, where the arable land is intensively cultivated and where he also has cattle and pigs.

* * * * *

The following Old Boys visited the College during the Christmas Term, 1957: P. J. L. Swaite, A. C. Lucker, H. A. Gough, R. J. Lawson, S. J. Curry, J. R. Ellis, R. A. Powell, M. G. Cooper, J. A. Richards, K. A. Statham, M. D. Rayner, B. R. Paish, R. N. Horne. D. H. Hill called on the Headmaster during the holidays.

RUGGER REPORT.

December 1957.

Results this term tended to be rather an anti-climax after the unsullied run of victories of last year. It was by no means an unsatisfactory season, however; the records must not be allowed to hide the many improvements, in other places equally important, the middle and junior games.

In the first game there was a dearth of three-quarters. Forwards seem always to have been more plentiful at Rendcomb, and this year the difference in numbers was particularly marked. Much of the experience lay in the forwards also; outside the pack team experience was confined to two players, one of whom had played only in one match. The sudden departure of R. C. Pilkington to Dublin University deprived the team of a promising outside-half, and this position was never satisfactorily occupied throughout the season. That not a single try was scored through an orthodox three-quarter movement was in no small measure due to this. The wings were rarely given a chance to show their considerable speed.

In the pack there were six with previous experience. Unfortunately, despite both this and the considerable individual talent there, the forwards were unable consistently to bear the full brunt of the task imposed on them. There were several reasons for this. The great promise shown early in the term with fine short passing, dribbling, and team-work generally failed to reappear in the later matches, although the pack was by some margin the heaviest to date, though no individual weighed as

much as twelve-and-a-half stone, its pushing was marred by a failure to pack really low. In consequence, particularly against Marlborough, and in the first match against Cheltenham, we were continually under-shoved, and as a result our hooker was not given a chance to reach the ball. Individually, inspiration seemed lacking: too many people were too slow into the loose scrums, and failed to go in low and look for the ball. In the lines-out also, early promise was not confirmed. The first five were over six feet tall, and I. A. N. Campbell and R. W. Taylor particularly jumped well, but the catching was poor. Only in taking was the pack really effective: here there was on occasion real cohesion, and with short passing and scissors movements much ground was gained. Good use was sometimes made of the short penalty kick, but here as elsewhere there was too much tendency to die with the ball.

The place kicking was very poor. Only two of fifteen tries were converted, and many attempts at penalty goals were unsuccessful. A variety of kickers was tried; S. R. Merrett kicked well at the beginning of the season, but gradually became inaccurate. R. D. Comley failed to produce in matches the power and accuracy he showed in practice, and of the other kickers tried, only I. A. N. Campbell was successful.

At prop-forward, R. F. Stimson fully justified his long residence in the First Fifteen. He showed great energy in the loose and his play was always forceful and intelligent. His tackling was solid, though it tended to be rather high. M. A. B. Forster worked hard in the loose and when given the necessary push hooked well. He suffered through the inability of his props to pack low. P. G. S. Airey was the other prop. He showed a great improvement on last year's form, and used his height and weight well, though he too often failed to look for the ball in the mauls.

I. A. N. Campbell and R. W. Taylor played in the second row. Campbell ran and tackled strongly; his jinking and swerving created many gaps in the opposition. Both he and Taylor tended to hang on to the ball too long. Taylor was the only forward who regularly heeled well in the loose; he too ran powerfully and his handling showed considerable improvement.

S. R. Merrett captained the side from the No. 8 position. He was a knowledgeable leader with a good understanding of tactics and a quick eye for an opening. His responsibility elsewhere sometimes caused him to push less hard than he should in the set scrums, but otherwise he was a far better player than last year. His tackling, dribbling and defensive covering were all very sound and he was one of several forwards who handled better than some of our three-quarters.

At wing-forward, both C. Handoll and M. D. Naish followed well in attack; too often, however, the opponents' halves were allowed too much room in which to manoeuvre. In the opening match, Handoll played in the centre, but he was more at home where less emphasis was placed on strong and accurate passing.

It was unfortunate that no really satisfactory combination was found in the halves. At scrum-half, R. F. Stebbing used the ball well; his covering and thrust were both most impressive, and his tackling was low and powerful. With more experience he should develop into a first-class stand-off. R. J. Whittall came in at scrum-half for one match when injury caused a general re-shuffle; his inexperience let him down against large and marauding forwards, but his improvement during the season was considerable.

M. van den Driessche played at full-back for the first two matches, but then moved up to outside-half. He tended to hang on to the ball too long to the neglect of his three-quarters; his tackling was good, his running clever, and his kicking, especially against Kingham Hill, was judicious and effective.

J. R. Alder, at inside-centre, also tended to attempt too much on his own to the neglect of his outsides; he showed considerable stamina and force, and had a useful kick. Both he and D. R. G. Griffiths, at outside-centre, had considerable difficulty in losing the habit of running into the opponents' scrum. Griffiths was quick to go through a gap, but his tackling was weak, and he frequently seemed vague as to what he should be doing.

Both wingers were unfortunately too often surrounded by opponents even before they had received the ball, so slow was the three-quarter line. J. F. W. Beard continued his strong running on the right, and frequently made considerable amounts. One occasion that springs to mind is when he picked up the ball on his own line at Kingham and made fifty yards before he was stopped. On the other wing, R. Bolton-King was probably the most improved player in the side. By the end of the season he was strong in every respect; his running was powerful, his tackling secure, his kicking intelligent, and his covering shrewd and effective. P. G. Auden played against Cheltenham when Beard was indisposed, and performed very creditably.

At full-back, R. D. Comley's devastating tackle was conspicuous. He spent the earlier games in the pack, and in both positions he tended to be caught out of position. He kicked well, whilst adding to the brightness of the game by being willing to run with the ball to open the game up.

RESULTS

Saturday, October 19th, v. Dean Close 2nd XV.

Home. Won 34pts. (2 goals, 7 tries, 1 penalty goal)—Opts.

The forwards were impressive, both in attack and in covering against some skilful kicking by the Dean Close backs. Campbell scored two fine solo tries, as well as making another for Bolton King to complete. The Dean Close covering was weak, and both Stebbing and Griffiths (twice), were allowed to score unchallenged from tight scrums near the line. The three-quarters were weak, however, and the wings rarely saw the ball. Although both scored, it was from using the loose ball. The other tries were scored by Alder, Beard, and Merrett, who kicked the three goals.

Saturday, October 26th, v. Marlborough College 3rd XV.

Away. Lost, Opts. —9pts.

This game was disappointing. On a wet pitch the forwards were surprisingly ineffective, and seemed to lack spirit. The ball was rarely won in the tight, and the loose play was scrappy. The three-quarters failed to make good use of the ball or to stop their opponents, who were much more adept at recovering from the mistakes caused by the slippery nature of ball and ground. The full-back was too often caught in possession. Rendcomb were further hampered by the loss of their captain for much of the game, and it was only when he returned for the closing minutes that they looked like crossing Marlborough's line. The points, came from three tries.

Saturday, November 23rd, v. Cheltenham College 3rd XV.

Away. Lost, 3pts. (a try)—8pts.

In the absence of Merrett, Campbell led the side. Whittall came in at scrum-half, with Stebbing outside him. An early try by Griffiths gave Rendcomb a false sense of security, and Cheltenham deserved their win. Although a man short for the second half, they pushed Rendcomb in both tight and loose. The Rendcomb pack was far too slow, and the three-quarters died with the ball time after time.

Saturday, November 30th, v. Cheltenham College 3rd XV.

Home. Won, 15pts. (5 tries)—5pts.

Rendcomb seemed a completely different side from that which lost only the week before. Merrett returned and Auden

came in for the injured Beard. The forwards in particular played much better; they played as a body, and were up with the game much more. The lines-out were much more skilful. The forwards had the bulk of the play, and the rushes, which were the most effective way of gaining ground throughout, produced all of the tries, directly those of Taylor, Stimson and Campbell, and almost immediately those of Bolton-King, an astute piece of following up, and Auden. Auden's try came when a penalty kick was awarded following a sustained Rendcomb rush almost to the Cheltenham line. A short kick to the wing was taken rather than an attempt at goal, and Auden was able to dive on the ball as it crossed the line. The place kicking was poor.

Saturday, December 7th, v. Kingham Hill 1st XV.

Away. Lost, 3pts. (a penalty goal)—6pts.

This match was played on a pitch that was ankle-deep in soft clay. As a result the general standard of play on both sides was low. Rendcomb never really settled down against a side that was well drilled and better able to adapt itself to conditions with which it was familiar. There was little open play, and for most of the game the ball was on the ground between the packs who were fairly matched. Rendcomb were unlucky not to score on more than one occasion, but were defeated either by poor finishing or the whistle. Rendcomb opened the scoring through Campbell, but Kingham replied with another penalty goal. The winning score was a push-over try by Kingham, after a misunderstanding on the part of some of the Rendcomb side about a touchdown. Rendcomb attacked again, but were unable to match the drive of the Kingham pack.

THE SECOND FIFTEEN.

The Second Fifteen suffered through the small numbers in the top forms. There was not the same contest for places in the First Fifteen as was the case last year, simply because the bulk of the second team was a good year younger this year. Naturally therefore, the weight and strength of the scrum was less. Added to this the halves were inexperienced and in the early matches were up against large forwards coming through the Rendcomb pack. As a result the outsides only rarely saw the ball. Early in the season there was a reluctance to tackle, but most of the team greatly improved in this sphere during the term. A word is due to those who did play hard from the start. Without their efforts it is difficult to conceive that the spirit of the team would have survived the two early crushing defeats in the way that it did.

The side was led by G. H. G. Herbert, whose experience was a great asset in the early games. Playing in the second row, his weight added solidity to a light pack. His line-out play and work in the loose generally was much improved, and he has a fine kick. Of the other forwards, the general impression was of lack of weight being made up for by great enthusiasm. D. W. Brown hooked well in the tight: the binding of the two prop-forwards, D. R. Poole and M. Whittering, was sometimes rather weak, but they both ran well and tackled strongly. J. B. Gooch played in the second row, and quite suddenly began to develop a crushing tackle. In the middle of the back row, I. S. C. Airey played well and intelligently. The wing-forwards, R. A. Dauncey and S. D. Hicks, were always in evidence, though the opposing fly-half was often allowed time to manoeuvre. R. J. Whittall played phlegmatically at scrum-half under constant pressure. By the end of the season he was beginning to realise his considerable potential. D. A. Hodges at fly-half also remained steady under pressure. The eventual centres, P. G. Auden and R. A. Cockrell, were both talented players. Auden tackled strongly and ran well and his handling, which had been suspect, improved to make him a strong challenger for a position in the First Team. Cockrell's tackling was weak early in the season, but improved. His kicking was good: he should make a good player if he is willing to support his skill with more effort. On the wings, J. E. Gooding and T. L. H. Benbow both improved much in the term. B. M. Tucker was fearless and enthusiastic at full-back. J. R. Windsor and J. Shaw also played on occasions.

Results:

Saturday, October 19th, v. Dean Close 3rd XV.

Home. Lost, Opts. —69pts.

Saturday, October 26th, v. Marlborough College 4th XV.

Away. Lost, 3pts. (a penalty goal)—54pts.

Saturday, December 7th, v. Kingham Hill 2nd XV.

Away. Lost, Opts. —15pts.

THE JUNIOR FIFTEENS.

The two junior teams put out this term were both successful, and the experiment of playing a Preparatory School with our "Under Fourteen" XV was popular. Unfortunately the second of these fixtures was cancelled owing to the state of the pitch.

The Under 15 XV, which played a Matched XV from Cheltenham College, won by 5 points (a goal) to 3 (a try). It

was a well deserved victory, and the team, which had only played together once previously, settled down well against a large side, especially in the three-quarters. The try was scored by Airey, and converted by Webb. Team: Tucker, D. M.; Jones, R. C., Shaw, J., Hodges, D. A., Webb, J. M.; Price, N. J., Malpass, J. C.; Marshall, J. R., Hicks, S. D., Whittering, M.; Bartlett, G. S., Airey, I. S. C. (captain); Jones, M. C., Laws, R. A. D., Ferguson, F. A. G.

The Under 14 XV beat Cheltenham College Junior School Second XV by 22 points (2 goals, 3 tries and a penalty goal) to 0 points. Tries were scored by Bartlett, Gough, Jones, Marshall and Price. Gough kicked the goals. Team: Gough, H. E.; Stillwell, C. B. Richardson, C. C., Webb, J. M., Jones, R. C.; Price, N. J., Malpass, J. M.; Marshall, J. R., Stimson, K. H., Laws, R. A. D.; Bartlett, G. S. (captain), Bass, T. C.; Wood, J. T., Callaghan, P. J., Harrison, R. P. S.

It is perhaps fitting to close with a comment concerning fitness. The First Fifteen in particular were palpably unfit, due to an unwillingness to do the most modest amount of training.

In a term when, for special reasons, seniors had no P. T., and when play on top was not always possible, it was lamentable that the first game did not accept the obvious necessity for taking alternative exercise. Verb, Sap.

NATURAL HISTORY SUPPLEMENT.

March, 1958.

Miscellaneous Notes, September 1st to December 31st, 1957.

This autumn produced a smaller variety than last in the spore-forming bodies of the large fungi. The clubs of *Clavaria pistillaris*, so abundant in Conigre Wood in 1956, were not to be found this year and the usually abundant *Hygrophorus eburneus* scarcely fruited in the same wood. Several specimens of the Earth Star *Geasier triplex* were, however, found in the same area as in 1956 and a few specimens of the white and glutinous *Armillaria mucida* were seen on old beeches.

The outstanding occurrence of this period was undoubtedly the arrival of an Osprey at Colesborne (see below). This is the first recorded occurrence of the species in the Rendcomb area, and there are few records for the County as a whole.

A small number of Siskins was again to be found along the Churn between Rendcomb and Colesborne from October to December. Hawfinches were also seen several times, usually singly, but once

four together. The metallic call-note, like two half-crowns snapping together, is often the best indication that this bird is about.

Redwings were first reported on October 14th and Fieldfares a day later, but a few birds were probably here before this. A Redpoll, a bird of infrequent occurrence round Rendcomb, flew over the village, calling, on November 11th.

Some species of birds have been present this autumn in exceptionally large numbers. This applies particularly to Blue Tits which have been far more abundant than is usual, but several other birds have also been noticeably plentiful. Great and Coal Tits, Tree Creepers, Greater Spotted Woodpeckers and Jays are all worthy of note in this respect. While their abundance may in part be attributed to the mild winter of 1956-57 followed by a good breeding season, it seems probable that the heavy influx of birds on the east coasts of Britain during this autumn has had its effect even so far west as Gloucestershire.

C. M. Swaine B.Sc.

Osprey at Colesborne.

During October 1957 an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) was observed at Colesborne Lake. It was first seen by a lady from that village on October 1st, but was not identified as an Osprey until the 5th. Thereafter it was seen by very many Gloucestershire people, including several from the College. It remained until October 24th.

This was a first-year bird, the dark feathers of the upper parts being tipped with brownish white. It spent most of each day on a dead branch of an ash tree adjacent to the lake. It showed curious behaviour when catching fish. Ospreys usually fly round above the water and plunge. This bird, however, took shallow dives directly from the branch, the fish being caught, as is usual, amid a great splash. Prey was either eaten on a nearby dead tree or carried far up the valley. Excellent views were obtained through binoculars and through a more powerful telescope.

John R. Alder.

Moths of the Rendcomb District, Part Five.

(See introduction, Vol. XI, No. 1, December 1956.)

Geometridae.

Geometrinae.

Selidosemidae.

Clouded Magpie. *Abraxas sylvata*.

Magpie Moth. *A. grossulariata*.

Bordered Chalk. Clouded Border. *Lomasipilis marginata*.

Spindle Chalk. Scorched Carpet. *Ligida adustata*.
 Spotted Chalk. White Pinion Spotted. *Bapta bimaculata*.
 Clouded Chalk. Clouded Silver. *B. temerata*. *B. punctata*.
 Lined Chalk. Common White Wave. *Cabera pusaria*.
 Dusty Chalk. Common Wave. *C. exanthemata*.
 Brown Scorch. Scorched Wing. *Plagodis dolabraria*.
 Red Barred. Barred Red. *Ellopiia fasciaria*. *E. prosapiaria*. Emerald
 Barred. Light Barred. *Campaea margaritata*.
 August Thorn. *Ennomos quercinaria*.
 Dusky Thorn. *Deuteronomos fuscantaria*.
 Early Thorn. *Selenia bilunaria*.
 Purple Thorn. *S. tetralunaria*.
 Lilac Thorn. Lilac Beauty. *Apeira syringaria*. *Hygrochroa syringaria*.
 Scalloped Thorn. Scalloped Hazel. *Gonodontis bidentata*. Feathered
 Thorn. *Colotois pennaria*.
 Yellow Thorn. Scalloped Oak. *Crocallis elinguarua*.
 Swallowtailed Moth. *Ourapteryx sambucaria*.
 Brimstone Moth. *Opisthograptis luteolata*.
 Speckled Thornlet. Speckled Yellow. *Pseudopanthera macularia*.
 Common Bracken. Brown Silver-line. *Linthia chlorosata*.
 Pine Zephyr. Tawny-barred Angle. *Semiothisa liturata*.
 Currant Zephyr. V-Moth. *Itama wauaria*.
 Latticed Zephyr. Latticed Heath. *Chiasmia clathrata*.
 Orange Umber. Scarce Umber. *Erannis aurantiaria*.
 Dotted Umber. Dotted Border. *E. marginaria*. *E. progemmaria*. Mottled
 Umber. *E. defoliaria*.
 March Moth. *Alsophila aescularia*.
 Pale Brindled Beauty. *Phigalia pedaria*. *P. pilosaria*.
 Small Brindled Beauty. *Apocheima hispidaria*.
 Brindled Beauty. *Lycia hirtaria*.
 Oak Beauty. *Biston strataria*.
 Peppered Beauty. Peppered Moth. *B. betularia*.
 Waved Bark. Waved Umber. *Hemerophila abruptaria*.
 Garden Bark. Willow Beauty. *Alcis rhomboidaria*.

Lichen Bark. Brussels Lace. *Cleorodes lichenaria*. *Cleora lichenaria*.

Early Engrailed Bark. The Engrailed. *Ectropis bistortata*. Whitespot Bark. Brindled White-spot. *E. extersaria*. *E. luridata*. Heath Feathered. Common Heath Moth. *Ematurga atomaria*. Pink Feathered. Bordered White. *Bupalus piniaria*. *B. piniarius*.

Zygaenidae.

Southern Burnet. Five-spot Burnet. *Zygaena triflioi*. Sharp-winged Burnet. Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet. *Z. lonicerae*.

Six-spot Burnet. *Z. filipendulae*.

The Forester. *Procris statices*.

Rockrose Forester. Cistus Forester. *P. geryon*.

Cossidae.

Goat Moth. *Cossus socsus*.

Leopard Moth. *Zeuzera pyrina*.

Sesiidae.

Orange-tailed Clearwing. *Aegeria andrenaeformis*.

Hepialidae.

Ghost Swift. *Hepialus humuli*.

Mapwinged Swift. *H. fusconebulosa*. *H. fusconebulosus*.

Common Swift. *H. lupulina*. *H. lupulinus*.

Gold Swift. *H. hecta*. *H. hectus*.

Concluded.

C. Handoll.