

RENDCOMB COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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Rendcomb College Magazine

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FEBRUARY, 1942.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Michaelmas Term, 1941.

Term began on Friday, 19th September. One of the first jobs to be tackled was the gathering of the potato crop put down in the Summer Term. We had good weather for this and shifts got to work in the autumn sunshine. In all some seven tons of potatoes were safely stowed away.

Another activity was blackberrying. Even the humbler elderberry was not overlooked, and by this means a welcome addition was made to our jam supply.

The individual allotments in the paddock at Rendcomb House were turned over by their tenants to plots for winter cabbage. Nor must we forget the poultry men. Though for a time it seemed as if the hens had gone on strike, they kept on at their task. Incidentally, we are indebted to them for some of the excellent fare we enjoyed at the Christmas party.

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Fire Fighting Squads and First Aid Parties continued their practices and a very realistic air raid "alarm" was the occasion of a full dress rehearsal from which quite a deal was learnt.

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Parties of boys assisted farms in the neighbourhood at potato picking. Wood collecting and sawing went on apace, and work was carried on throughout the Term on the Dash Track.

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On Saturday, 27th September, we had a visit from Captain K. A. C. Gross and his wife. It was his first visit to Rendcomb since his marriage.

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Clothes rationing has brought with it many problems for schools. As an economy measure it was decided to put the College into "Boiler Suits." They are very practical and not at all unbecoming—quite a pleasing shade of blue. And we soon got accustomed to a school that appeared suddenly to have turned into a squad of motor mechanics. It is amazing how one gets used to almost anything. Now it would feel quite strange to be without them.

Under the direction of Miss K. Beswick a number of boys are carrying out a technique of sight adjustment which dispenses with the ordinary use of spectacles. Miss Beswick visited us on the 4th October, and after careful individual examination prescribed the requisite treatments and exercises. Mrs. Lee Browne does periodic testing under Miss Beswick's instructions, and Miss Sumner supervises the medical side. Marked improvements have already resulted and we look forward with interest to a further visit from Miss Beswick, when we should have further progress to report.

Half Term fell on Saturday, 1st November. Most people went off for the day, and in the evening there was a variety show in Big School.

Poppies were on sale on Remembrance Day, and this year the collection was a record one. The two minutes silence was observed in the Library in the usual way.

On November 15th we had a visit from Pilot Officer J. B. Fell. He had arrived by plane at a nearby aerodrome and spent the week-end with us. He is engaged on interesting work with night fighters. We also were visited by Mr. Wright, who is now a 2nd Lieutenant in the Intelligence Corps.

A Carol Service was held in Rendcomb Church on Sunday, 14th December. A report of this will be found elsewhere in this issue.

The Christmas Party was held on Wednesday, 17th December. It was an unqualified success. The Entertainments Committee had decreed fancy dress for all. The kitchen front excelled itself in the good fare provided. Dancing went with a swing, and two most amusing plays were put on in Big School. A very happy innovation was made by inviting a number of friends from the village who have had close connections with the College during the year. In normal times it would have been a memorable party. In war time it was more than remarkable, and we are indebted to all concerned for a most delightful evening.

At the School Certificate Examination held in December, J. M. Murry obtained the Certificate.

A number of Staff changes have taken place. We welcome Miss Carnell who has come to take charge of music and to act as Headmaster's Secretary.

Miss Hatch has come as Housekeeper. The former staff cloakroom has been turned into an office for her and appropriately named "Woolton." Miss Joyce has come to assist Miss Finlayson in the Linen Room and to act as assistant Matron to Miss Sumner. We wish these newcomers a happy stay with us.

Mr. Morel left at the end of Term. We need not say how much he will be missed—in the workshop, on the Athletic Pitches, and at Rendcomb House. He has gone to take up cabinet work with Mr. Edward Barnsley, where he will have time to devote to the excellent craftsmanship of which he is such a master. Wherever he goes our good wishes follow him.

We extend our SALVETE to the following new boys:

J. G. French, P. A. G. Draper, P. S. W. Beck, D. J. Dodwell, C. Carus-Wilson, T. R. Morris, A. Baxby, J. A. Barclay, J. D. Draper, K. J. Hanney, R. J. Kendal, M. J. Morgan, and G. O. Williams.

THE GENERAL MEETING.

Officers, Easter Term, 1942.

Chairman—M. A. C. Levett.

Council—L. H. Hyett, M. A. Bullen, G. W. Ivens, M. A. C.

Levett, H. S. Palmer, C. E. H. Tuck, A. W. Morris.

Meeting Selection Committee—L. H. Hyett, M. A. Bullen, M. A. C.

Levett, C. E. H. Tuck, A. W. Morris.

House Committee—C. D. M. Barnett, N. P. Elson, R. A. S. Primrose, J.

M. Faulks, P. A. G. Draper, J. M. Henshaw.

Games Committee—L. H. Hyett, S. J. Curry, A. R. Margetts, C. E. H.

Tuck.

Groundsman—D. Montgomery.

Senior Shopman—D. Hill.

Shopmen—R. T. Wood, P. A. G. Draper.

Banker—J. F. Alder.

Breakages Man—F. H. Dutton.

Secretary—N. C. Stone.

Auditors—A. F. Harrison, M. C. Harries.

Apprentice Auditors—D. G. Knight, J. M. Trickett.

Finance Committee—B. W. Plenderleith, M. R. F. Butlin.

Entertainments Committee—R. T. Wood, F. J. Sime, C. D. M.

Barnett, R. Brain, C. J. N. Richardson.

Cycle Men—M. A. C. Levett, C. D. M. Barnett, R. A. S. Primrose.

Meeting Almoner—M. R. F. Butlin.

Paperman—R. Brain.

Amplifier Committee—M. A. Bullen, P. A. Cutts, F. H. Dutton, N. C.

Stone, M. C. Harries.

Magazine Committee—D. Montgomery.

Drying Room Committee—J. Owen, P. G. Forrest, J. E. Carus-Wilson.

Record Committee—M. A. Bullen, P. A. Cutts, F. H. Dutton.

Jam Man—J. R. C. Baillie.

Games Secretaries—Football: R. A. S. Primrose.
Hockey: D. Hill.
Cricket: J. C. Beck.
Games Wardens—Football: G. S. Davies.
Hockey: R. Brain, F. T. Luffman, P. B. Lane.
Cricket: P. A. T. Griffiths.
Tennis: N. M. Wood,
Indoor: R. W. T. Buckingham, C. Carus- Wilson.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

Roll of Honour.

L/Bdr. A. R. Curtis, Royal Artillery. Killed in action, 1st. December, 1941. At Rendcomb, September 1926—July 1933.
At the Training College of St. Mark and St. John, 1933—1936.
Schoolmaster, 1936—1940.

Distinctions.

Distinguished Flying Cross—
Flight-Lieutenant D. D. Haig, R. A. F.

Distinguished Flying Medal—
Flight-Sergeant B. J. Brooks, R. A. F.

The following is a list of Old Boys and Staff known to be serving with H. M. Forces. We have tried to make it as complete as possible, but doubtless there are some omissions. The Editor earnestly asks for further information.

J. E. Allen (R. A. F.).
J. G. Ash (Royal Navy).
H. W. T. Bates (R. A. F.).
R. H. Bettison (Royal Navy).
S. Boardman (4th. West Lancs.).
E. D. H. Boulding (Royal Artillery).
R. C. J. Brain (Royal Artillery).
B. J. Brooks, D. F. M. (R. A. F.)
A. P. Browning (Royal Artillery).
G. D. Buck (Worcestershire Regiment).
W. Bums (R. A. F.).
R. M. Campbell (Gloucestershire Regiment).
B. C. Clarke (Royal Artillery).
C.E. Coles (R. N. V. R.).
J. G. Collet (R. A. F.).
R. G. Collet (Monmouth Regiment).
R. O. J. Cooper (R. A. F.).
D. Dakin (R. A. F.).
J. H. Dixon (R. A. O. C.).

F. R. Dobbs (R. A. O. C.).
W. N. Durham (Royal Corps of Signals).
P. J. Dyke (Royal Artillery).
P. Elwell (R. A. F.).
C. Eyles (Royal Corps of Signals).
J. Eyles (Royal Navy).
D. Field (R. A. F.).
P. Field (R. A. F.).
E. R. S. Gillham (Royal Navy).
J. Gillham (Gloucester Regiment).
A. Gilmour (R. A. C.).
G.T. Greenway (Army Pay Corps).
J. R. Gurdon (R. A. F.).
D. D. Haig, D. F. C. (R. A. F.).
B. H. Harben (Royal Artillery).
R. G. Hutton (R. A. F.).
R. M. Ingleton (Royal Marines).
C. Jones.
F.H. Jones (R. A. F.).
W. F. J. Jones (R. A. F.).
T. W. Kitchen (Royal Fusiliers).
H. P. Lecky (R. A. F.).
G.A. Lowe (Gloucestershire Regiment).
A. C. Magor (R. A. F.).
M. H. C. Martin (R. C. A. F.).
J. C. Maslin (R. A. F.).
B. J. Meadows (R. A. F.).
H.E. Miller (Royal Artillery).
J. E. Miller (Royal Artillery).
D.G. Morison (Glos. Hussars. Tanks).
J. H. A. Muirhead (R. A. F.).
R. H. Newport (R. A. F.).
K. Noble (R. A. F.).
V. D. Page (R. A. F.).
C. Price (Royal Artillery).
V. W. Pullin (Royal Artillery).
D. A. Richards (Royal Tank Regiment).
D. C. Richardson (Royal Navy).
H. Selby (Royal Corps of Signals).
R. L. Short (R. A. F.)
C. Sidgwick (Royal Artillery).
J. D. Sinclair (Fleet Air Arm).
R. A. T. J. Skelton (Royal Marines).
H. P. Smallman (R. A. F.).
J. F. Spencer (R. A. F.).
J. H. R. Thornhill (R. S. A. A. F.).
M. Tugwell (Royal Artillery).
D. C. Vaughan (Royal Engineers).

A. C. Wager (Royal Corps of Signals).
R. C. V. Waters (R. A. F.).
M. R. Weaver (R. A. F.),
E. Webster (R. A. F.).
C. W. Wells (Royal Artillery).
C. S. T. Widdrington (R. A. S. C.),
G. M. Wilson (Fleet Air Arm).
G. Wintle (Worcestershire Regiment).
Dr. P. H. Wyon (R. A. M. C.),

Staff.

Rev. J. R. Bateman (Chaplain).
E. Coleman (Royal Navy).
J. B. Fell (R. A. F.).
K. A. C. Gross (Royal Artillery).
P. K. Wright (Intelligence Corps).
J. G. Young (R. A. F.).

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J. D. Sinclair (Fleet Air Arm) has been presented to the King.

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Peter Wyon has been promoted to the rank of Captain in the R. A. M. C. W. A. Wyon is in the Friends' Ambulance Unit.

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D. F. Gallop is in the Reading University Officers' Training Corps and has passed Certificate A. R. L. Short captained the Reading University Soccer XI against Oxford University.

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G. Constable is still working at the Oxford University Department of Physical Chemistry. He registered in July 1941.

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J. F. Roper is working with a demolition unit in London. A. F. W. Abbott is an engineer on the staff of George Wimpey and Co., Ltd. P. Alder is still with an engineering firm in Bristol. P. Binks is an engineering apprentice with Imperial Chemicals Industry. H. P. Dainton is still with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. L. H. B. Hatherell is working as an engineering pupil with Messrs. Slothent & Pitt, of Bath.

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K. J. Morgan is still doing Government work as a valuer in the Inland Revenue Valuation Department and is "on deferment." D. G. Taylor is in the Bristol Office of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

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J. G. Sterry, who has been working for Messrs. Kingscott, Dix & Co., Incorporated Accountants in Gloucester, has been presented with his Articles.

R. F. Boyland is Secretary of the Stratton Food Production Club.

We desire to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the issue of the College Magazine for September 1933, sent to us by E. R. Morris in response to our enquiry. We still require Vol. 1, No. 2, September 1925, to complete our files.

PRESENTATION.

A presentation in the form of a silver plated cigarette box was made by the boys to Mr. Sidney G. Shimmin on the occasion of his leaving.

His connection with Rendcomb dates from the early days of the College. In September, 1924 he started coming one day a week as visiting music master. Subsequently he was assisted by Mrs. Shimmin who taught the violin. In 1930 he took over the choir and increased his visits to two days weekly.

A great music-lover himself, he taught many to cultivate a love for the classics, and by them he will be missed in many ways. Modest and retiring, he never sought to force himself on people, but his musicianship and taste were an influence not soon to be forgotten.

ACTING.

Michaelmas Term, 1941.

This Term's acting has been remarkable for the number of plays written and produced by boys themselves. Out of a total of eight, six belonged to this category. That is all to the good, but we would be doing a disservice to the cause of drama if we were to be merely complacent in our criticism and hand round bouquets indiscriminately.

To expect perfection and cavil because it was not attained would be equally absurd. What we have got to do is to learn from our experience. The following remarks are set down with the intention of being constructive, and to help future playwrights to avoid some of the more obvious pitfalls.

Speaking generally, situations and action were better handled than the dialogue itself. In many cases the actors were not given sufficient lines to speak. There were gaps and pauses in the text that had to be filled in with "business." Good speech is as necessary to drama as significant action.

We need not warn authors of the clumsiness of a piece that requires, say, three changes of scene—with the inevitable delays—

yet which in itself only plays a brief twenty minutes all told. That is, perhaps, an extreme instance, but there have been occasions when the "book" was so short and the intervals so long that the result was a feeling of amateurishness. The moral is not to skimp the dialogue. Give your characters enough to say. And if you must have several scene-changes do not let them follow in such rapid succession that the pauses are almost as long as the "shots."

The next point is—by all means let us have thrillers, if you like, but do not overdo it. Above all avoid anything that savours of the torture chamber. One can be exciting without being morbid, and we detected an unpleasantly cruel note in at least one of these productions. Horror need not necessarily create nausea— e. g. "A Night at an Inn" is horrific enough, but it is not repulsive as was the calculated cruelty that was exploited in one production.

Finally, in a straight crook play—if we may be pardoned the oxymoron—pay due attention to the probability of the situations. Failure to do this was the one blemish in C. C. Richardson's otherwise excellent "Trouble at the Horse and Cart." It is inconceivable that the villains of this piece could have staged such an easy escape in disguise from the village lock-up, or from wherever they were detained. The somewhat alarming carnage in the final scene of A. F. Harrison's "The Conquered" suffered from the same defect. Life, one knows, is stranger than fiction, but do not expect of your audience an undue credulity.

It is, however, easier to criticise than to create. These author-producers all deserve our gratitude. We have taken them seriously and that is what they should wish. And now, having said our say, we make bold, however undeservingly, to join company with Oliver Twist in asking for "More."

Find the Lady: by N. C. Stone.

Produced 18th. October. Leon, an actor, murders his wife, Cora, deposits her body in a wardrobe, and then locks her student lover, Travers, in the theatrical dressing room, along with the mutilated corpse of the woman with whom he had hoped to elope. The theme of wife and lover is an old one and, unless the author has something distinctly new to say about it, it is probably best left alone. This piece, it is true, was mainly a thriller rather than a problem play—and undoubtedly the apparition of the corpse in the wardrobe was efficiently done, and made a clever use of the macabre.

F. H. Dutton, as Leon, was appropriately sinister, though he might have portrayed more of the jealousy aroused by the upstart Travers. D. A. C. Smith got something of the right air of nonchalance, and J. Owen tried his best to appear hard-boiled as the unfaithful Cora.

Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme: By Molière.

Scenes from this classical French comedy were given a very effective production on Saturday, 25th October. D. Montgomery made a very good M. Jourdain. His clumsiness was only matched by his bluster and conceit. Even if we missed much of his French (regrettably) we were never in doubt as to his intentions, and he built up a convincing picture of the part. W. P. Thomas was a mincing Maître à danser. D. A. C. Smith, styled Maître de musique (in reality he concentrated more on elocution than the art of song) filled the role admirably. Possibly the best of the instructors were N. C. Stone as the finical fencing master and A. W. Morris as the dignified and supercilious pedant. They caught exactly the right nuance. F. H. Dutton made a good heavy-going Madame Jourdain, while Mrs. Manifold as Nicole, the maid, had the lightness and vivacity that the part required.

Lastly, R. A. S. Primrose and G. H. Bye as valets, were excellent flunkeys, lending by their bows and graces just the right touches to complete the setting of this preposterous menage.

They Never Come Back: By N. C. Stone and J. M. Murry.

Produced Saturday, 8th November. This was a thriller with all the mechanism of secret formulae, spy rings, double crossing crooks, an enigmatic lady and cops who come in to inspect the mess. It was slick and adroit and carefully produced, but it left a nasty taste in the mouth. Possibly this was intended, and the authors can claim that they put across what they wanted. We can only state our own reactions. Frankly we deprecate plays that exploit the morbid. There is a difference between violence and brutality. We know' that third degree methods exist, but they are only tolerable on the stage when terror is accompanied by pity, (vide "The Duchess of Malfi"). Horror can only be redeemed when it rises to tragedy. But administered in hypodermic doses it repels. The cast was as follows:

Dr. Lionel Carsen—N. C. Stone.
Goulding (his assistant)—P. A. G. Draper.
Myra (his secretary)—J. M. Murry.
Hugh Burwell (a "patient") R. T. Wood.
Two Policemen—R. A. S. Primrose and E. J. M. Jefferies.

A Husband for Breakfast: By Ronald Elwy Mitchell.

Produced 22nd. November. This was a simple Welsh play with characters and cast similar to the earlier production of "A Rogue in Bed" and the plot was effective in spite of its simplicity.

C.E. H. Tuck played the difficult part of the over-bearing wife with feeling; striking just the right note of farcical comedy and Welsh humour. D. Montgomery, as Moses Roberts, her pur-

chaser, was in his element as a blustering, swaggering middle-aged farmer. His performance was, however, somewhat marred by indistinctness in the more excitable speeches. He contrasted well with the meek and retiring Elias Jones, who was convincingly played by W. P. Thomas.

As in "A Rogue in Bed" the inquisitive and oddly assorted neighbours added local colour to the main plot. Once again we met J. Owen as the shrivelled Miss Pugh Bach, S. A. Trayhurn as the coarse but jovial Mrs. Morris, N. C. Stone as the local innkeeper, with the somewhat inappropriate title of Captain Hughes, and finally D. A. C. Smith as Hugh Parry, the village post boy.

Trouble at the Horse and Cart: By C. C. Richardson.

Produced 29th. November. This play was one of the best of a batch of original efforts. The dialogue was good, and the action, there was plenty of it, packed into a bare half-hour, was very slickly handled. The setting of the public house was excellent • every detail was complete, even to the cider barrel full of gurgling liquid. The cast was as follows:

Henry Hutchings—R. E. Hayward.
Sam Tozer (a publican)—D. J. Knight.
Joe Bickford (a labourer)—C. C. Richardson.
Charlie Nicholls (a farmer)—S. H. Groves.
Fred Richens—K. E. Banks.
Police Sergeant—N. M. Wood.
Constable—J. E. Carus-Wilson.
A Boy—M. J. Morgan.

The acting was good, C. C. Richardson, K. E. Banks, D. J. Knight and M. J. Morgan deserving special mention.

The Conquered: By A. F. Harrison.

Produced Saturday, 13th. December. Here was a play that aimed at realism with a serious intention—an attempt to portray an actual and not a fictitious situation. The scene was in an occupied part of Russia, the setting a peasant's cottage. We got the atmosphere, and the dialogue was carefully written. The parts were conceived as character sketches—the patriot Carl with his secret wireless set, his sturdy wife, and impetuous son. It began well. The first two scenes were convincing. We liked the symbol of the fox. And the intrusion of the Gestapo in the shape of Bruderlein and his fellow thug was all part of the picture. If only it had gone on as it had started, but the final scene in the prison took us from naturalism to rather forced melodrama. More, however, might have been made of it. It was in some respects under-acted.

Incidentally it was an illustration of the difficulties that beset a producer when he casts himself for one of the principal parts. If someone else had produced Carl in this scene of high tension it could have been much more effective. As it was, Harrison could not see himself sufficiently objectively to rise to the occasion; and he was too absorbed in his own problems to get the best out of North's acting as the son.

But for all that it was a brave attempt, and we could have accepted the holocaust at the end if it had been achieved more convincingly. It was just possible, but it did not quite come off.

One of the satisfying things about this play was the dialogue. It flowed naturally and there was enough of it to clothe the action.

The cast was as follows:

Carl, a peasant—A. F. Harrison.

His wife—D. M. Grant.

The Son—J. J. North.

The Gestapo—Bruderlein, R. A. S. Primrose.

Second Officer, J. R. C. Baillie.

She was only a Dustman's Daughter: By D. Montgomery.

Together with "Birds of a Feather" this farcical comedy provided the best of the several home-written entertainments we had during the Term. It was also a high spot in an exceptionally enjoyable College Party.

The scene opens in a basement kitchen, where Rosie, a maid, is bemoaning her lot in rhyming verse: "Its useless being a servant. It ain't no good at all."

Her wishful thinking is interrupted by the Cook, who upbraids her for her slackness. Rosie gives her a piece of her mind and— gets the sack. There follows a rather pathetic yet highly entertaining dialogue between Rosie and her butler-sweetheart, Albert. Sitting together in front of the fire they weave dreamy patterns of "might-have-beens." If only they had some money! The Cook rudely interrupts them and sends Rosie off to pack. The weak-willed Albert resigns himself to their parting, but without, we feel, any very deep pangs. He is one who takes the world as he finds it. A hulking burglar now enters, and having caused the Cook to faint and Albert to put his hands up, proceeds to ransack the cupboard. Rosie opportunely appears at the window above, and understanding Albert's frantic signals, drops a flowerpot on the burglar's head and knocks him out. A diminutive police-sergeant appears and announces that there is a reward for the burglar's capture, and all ends well.

D. Montgomery, who was also the author-producer, made Rosie a plaintive, natural, yet endearing character; W. P. Thomas was a realistic and dignified butler. The others in the cast were:

Cook—A. F. Harrison.
Policeman—G. H. Bye.
Burglar—D. A. C. Smith.
Chorus—N. C. Stone.

Birds of a Feather: By W. P. Thomas.

If the preceding play must be set down as essentially a farce, here we had just that something extra—in short the makings of a true comedy. The situation was perfect. It was one of those rare strokes of imagination that only happen once in a blue moon. And it was exquisitely handled. A series of coincidences—none of them forced—all of them treated gingerly, all of them leading up to the subtle moment when pretence gives place to the embarrassed smile and handshake of recognition. What a comment on the status of Bendover College! What a "Decline and Fall"! What a perfect Old Boys' Night, with one of the present pupils as a disconcerting interloper! Everything came out in the wash. We wonder what the Headmaster said, or did not say, at assembly next morning.

This play had satire as well as humour. It could not have been better acted. We must content ourselves with giving the cast and saying that the honours deserve to be equally divided.

Incidentally it was admirably suited to its purpose—a divertissement at the College party, and it ended with the right revue touch provided by an A. P. Herbertish chorus: "The Tower of Old Bendover." We wish Will Hay could have been here to see this piece. He might have done something about it.

The cast was:

First Old Boy—D. Montgomery.
Second Old Boy—M. A. C. Levett.
Barman—M. J. Bedwell.
Pupil—R. T. Wood.
Headmaster—W. P. Thomas.
John—P. A. Cutts.

THE PUPPETEERS.

The Puppet Show given at Rendcomb House towards the end of Term was without exception the most interesting the Puppeteers have as yet produced. It began with three curtain-raisers. A divertissement arranged by R. S. D. Balter entitled "The Circus Comes to Town," featuring "Billy the Wonder Horse" who jumped through paper hoops in true hippodrome style. The back cloth

suggested Picasso. It was gay and vivid and the whole turn had a spontaneity and verve that were very engaging.

Then followed two short sketches written and produced by the Juniors. "Death of a Traitor," with G. H. Bye, C. B. Lane, E. A. Jones, T. T. Walters and D. Henshaw. And in "The Last of X29" we saw an oil tank blown up. With it went the enemy spy hoist with his own petard, his dismembered body dropping subsequently from the clouds. This was the joint work of R. T. Lindsay and R. T. W. Buckingham.

These items were the hors d'oeuvres, the piece de resistance being a play in three scenes entitled "The Robe of Felicity."

From the moment the curtain went up there was much to delight the eye and intrigue the ear. (We must pay tribute to the felicities of the text.)

In this play an ideal balance was struck between dialogue and action. The story unfolded itself gradually—a blend of character and incident. There was contrast. There were surprises, subtleties of speech, little touches of the grotesque, some of them supplied by the antics of Kiki and Poopoo, whose diminutive scale brought into relief the more substantial figures of the Mandarin and the other dramatis personae. The whole was informed with an exquisite feeling of Chinoiserie, a subtle, poetic charm, exhaled like the perfume of a flower. Indeed, as the tale proceeded we were reminded of those Japanese paper flowers that open out in a bowl of water and arrange themselves in a kaleidoscopic pattern. It only remains to give the cast:

Ming, a scholar—R. T. Wood.

Kiki, an apprentice—P. A. T. Griffiths.

Poopoo, a page—C. B. Lane.

Li Fang, a merchant—E. J. M. Jefferies.

Ming Chu, his son—N. P. Elson.

Wong Po, a mandarin—A. F. Harrison.

Golden Petal, his daughter—N. M. Wood.

CAROL SERVICE.

A Carol Service was held in Rendcomb Church on Sunday, 14th December. It followed the general lines of the service held last year. The opening carol "I sing of a maiden" was memorable for the softness of tone and smoothness of phrasing. We are learning to sing with more gradation of tone, and there is an improvement in the quality of the softer passages. Especially enjoyable was the carol "When Christ was bom," which had a sort of descant in the form of a canon for soprano voices. As at the former service the Choir sang the chorus from "The Messiah"—"And the glory of the Lord." Miss Carnell was responsible for the training of the Choir and Miss Alway was at the organ.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

At the beginning of Term a Debating Society was formed by a group of seniors. Although membership was limited to Forms VI and V, twenty-eight persons joined, the usual attendance being about twenty. Officers for the Term were: Chairman, C. E. H. Tuck; Secretary, W. P. Thomas.

Perhaps the best of the fortnightly debates were those on the motions that "The introduction of machinery has done more good than harm," which was lost by a casting-vote, and "The worst democracy is preferable to the best despotism," which was defeated.

On one occasion an informal discussion on "Manners" was held in place of a formal debate.

At the last meeting of Term there was a series of short impromptu mock debates on motions drawn from a hat.

It is to be hoped that the Society, which had such a good first term, will thrive and become a permanent feature of Rendcomb.

FOOTBALL.

Winter Term, 1941.

Potato digging monopolised our energies at the beginning of Term, but when this was completed we were not infrequently able to enjoy two games of football a week.

The First XI played six school matches, of which we won three, drew two and lost one. Several enjoyable matches were arranged with local teams who usually proved too skilful for us.

The Junior XI played two games with Sir Thomas Rich's Juniors. These resulted in a draw and a defeat. The Average Fifteen XI played one match with Kingham Hill which it won by thirteen goals to one.

The standard of football was slightly lower than in the previous year, especially among our smaller members. They must learn that football is not a process of kicking a ball about with both teams closely in pursuit. Passing and correct positioning are far more profitable.

In the First XI we had trouble with forwards and backs. Trayhurn, who had played forward the previous season, took the place of right back, a position for which he was far more suited.

Murry filled Trayhurn's earlier position of inside left. Trouble was experienced in finding a right wing until Primrose finally settled there.

After several changes had been made we found ourselves with a team which proved surprisingly strong and won its first match fairly comfortably.

Montgomery was in goal and did quite well, although his lack of reach was a drawback. The two backs, Tuck and Trayhurn played a good game and co-operated well with the halves. The halves were Curry, Hyett and Margetts who, although inclined to play a defensive game at the beginning of the season, improved gradually. Curry was slow off the mark. It is the speed over the first few yards which is so important in football. The forwards, Thomas, Murry, Palmer, Smith and Primrose, took some time to get used to one another, but by the end of the season were making far more use of the wings. They must remember, however, to chase any opponent who may take the ball from them, as it means one man less for the defence to worry about.

Hyett continued to improve as a player; his early vigour is undiminished and he has gained considerably in ball-control. In matches at centre-half he was one of the most consistent players the School has ever seen, invariably dominating the centre of the field, and being successful on light as well as heavy grounds. The reduced standard of football, particularly in the spirit of "tackling back" was scarcely his fault. He took a marked interest in the lower games, a policy that always bears fruit later.

First XI v. Kingham Hill School.

At Home, Saturday, October nth, and resulting in a win for the home team by 4 goals to 1. The opposing forwards were well marked and made few breaks. Their defence was strong, but seemed to become slower in the second half.

First XI v. Sir Thomas Rich's School.

At Home, Saturday, October 25th. Resulted in a win for us by 6 goals to 5. This game, as possibly the score may indicate, was characterized by lack of consistency in the defence of both teams. Their forwards and ours were not well marked.

First XI v. Swindon College.

Away, Saturday, November 15th, resulting in a draw 4—4. Our forwards were noticeable for not following up after losing the ball. Swindon were clever with their feet, and we should have done better if we had gone straight for the ball.

First XI v. Kingham Hill School.

Away, Saturday, November 22nd. Result, a win 2—1. The pitch was muddy and made heavy going. Kingham scored first Shortly after half-time, we began to press hard and both our goals were scored in the last ten minutes.

First XI v. Swindon Commonweal.

Away, Saturday, November 29th. Result a draw 2—2. We were late getting there and the game lasted only fifty minutes. They made several dangerous rushes, and with their more skilful footwork we were hard put to keep them out.

First XI v. Sir Thomas Rich's School.

Away, Saturday, December 6th. Result, lost 3 nil. There was a strong wind on this day. Our opponents put in three goals in the first half. We held our own in the second half and attacked quite vigorously. Their defence, however, was sound and had a lot of weight. Although we had several near misses, we never quite managed to score.

Average Fifteen XI v. Kingham Hill Second XI.

At Home, Saturday, October 11th, resulting in a win 13 goals to 1.

Junior XI v. Sir Thomas Rich's Juniors.

Away, Saturday, October 18th, resulting in a defeat by 9 goals to 1.

Junior XI v. Sir Thomas Rich's Juniors.

At Home, Thursday, November 13th. Result, a draw 3—3.