

**RENDCOMB
COLLEGE
CHRONICLE**

Vol. 11, No. 8.

March, 1959

Rendcomb College Chronicle

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SCHOOL NOTES.

Christmas Term, 1958.

We are very sorry to report the illness of the Headmaster. While working on the elm felled to open up the view to the Church, he hit his leg with an axe, not seriously but enough to require medical attention, and it was while he was undergoing treatment for this that other symptoms were suspected. He went into hospital during the last week of term and a form of anaemia was confirmed. He was home again for Christmas.

At the time of writing (February) he is still on the sick-list, but he is definitely better and making progress. We send him our sincere wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

In the meantime Mr. James is in charge of the day to day running of the College. Mr. Sells as Senior House Tutor has returned to the College, and Mr. Tooze is in charge of the Old Rectory. Mr. Lee Browne is able to do all the normal paper work and to see members of the Staff when necessary.

* * * *

We welcome the following new boys: R. B. Denny, T. G. W. Pettigrew, S. H. M. Creffield, R. P. Goodchild, R. B. N. Bryant, G. C. Cattermole, P. L. Hughes, A. A. J. Raddon, J. J. Schwarzmantel, R. A. Sewell, S. H. Shellswell, M. E. Stubbs, P. A. Trier, R. Verge and N. S. Whatmough.

We also welcome Mr. J. H. Duffell, who succeeds Mr. F. Haywood as a Science and Maths. Master. Mr. Duffle, like Mr. Haywood, will also be in charge of Rugger and Cricket. He was educated at King Edward's School, Stourbridge, and at Balliol College, Oxford.

We were glad to have Mr. D. M. McKie with us, though only for one term, in succession to Mr. K. S. Perkins who left in July. Mr. McKie, who was educated at Christ's Hospital and Oxford, has now joined the Publicity Department of Kodak Ltd. and we wish him every success.

* * * *

The Reverend V. S. M. Wheeler resigned as Rector of Rendcomb and Colesbourne on the 1st of November, 1958, in order to assist in Church work in Burma. He sailed early in the New Year.

We said farewell to him with great regret. He was a popular figure who did not spare himself in the service of others. Examples of his active Christian way of life come to mind in profusion: gardening for parishioners too old or infirm to do it themselves, and driving a wife to Bristol each week so that she might see her husband who had been seriously injured in a road accident, are just two examples. Then there was his work for the young people of the two villages (his home was thrown open to them on most evenings of the week), and his Chaplaincy of various ex-Service Associations.

His work in Burma will be as a Parish Priest in Rangoon, and he will at the same time be an assistant to the Bishop of Rangoon. Later he expects to do some "field-work" in the Shan country.

We send him our warm good wishes.

In the meantime we welcome back an old friend, the Reverend L. G. Allum, to take charge of the parish.

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The College Choir sang at the wedding of Miss Jennifer Lane and Mr. David Gladstone in Rendcomb Church on Saturday, 4th of October, 1959. We offer Mr. and Mrs. David Gladstone our congratulations and sincere good wishes.

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Mr. L. W. H. Hull's "History and Philosophy of Science" (Longmans) was published in January. It deals with the growth and influence of scientific ideas from Greek to modern times, and may be of interest to Old Rendcombians. The book has had a good reception, both here and in America. A French edition is being prepared, which should appear later this year.

* * * *

There were three lectures during term. On October the 15th Mr. Anthony Wilson lectured on "United States' Foreign Policy," on October the 22nd Mr. John Hills spoke on "The Times," and on November the 13th Captain Lawson-Smith gave a talk on "Deep-sea Diving."

* * * *

There were several expeditions during the term. Sixth Form parties went to Stratford on October the 21st to see "Twelfth

Night,” and to the Bristol Old Vic on the 2nd of December to see “Doctor’s Joy,” a modern translation of Molière’s “La Malade Imaginaire.”

Members of Forms III, IV, V and VI went to Cheltenham Town Hall on the 11th of December to hear the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

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Throughout the term a party of P. W. workers, under the direction of the Headmaster, cleared trees and bushes which have been obstructing the view of the Church from the main building. Much hard labour has been put into this and the result is a great improvement.

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Many of our readers will be interested to know that Rendcomb Church has been placed on the National List of Buildings of Historic or Architectural Interest which is compiled by the Ministry of Works. St. Peter’s Church, therefore, becomes a National Monument.

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We regret that there were some errors in the list of College Officers for the Christmas Term which we printed in our last issue. Corrections appear on page 6.

“The Boy With a Cart.” We apologise to the cast for not printing a list of their names as we usually do. This can be found on page 18.

Once more we thank Dr. Gladstone for the gift of a year’s Blackwood’s Magazines—which he is so consistent in giving us and which are always so welcome.

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We acknowledge, with thanks, copies of “Wycliffe Star,” “Decanian,” “The Richian” and “The Buxtonian.”

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We are grateful to Mr. K. E. G. Trier for the gift of a considerable quantity of miscellaneous sheet music which will be a useful addition to the Music Library.

MR. J. H. SIMPSON.

As we go to press we have heard, with great regret, of the death of Mr. J. H. Simpson, M. A., the first Headmaster of Rendcomb (1920-1932). He died in a nursing home near Painswick on Saturday, the 28th of February. An obituary will appear in the next number of the Chronicle.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Easter Term, 1959.

Senior Prefect—R. D. Comley.

Group Leaders—R. D. Comley, R. F. Stebbing, P. G. S. Airey, R. Bolton King.

College Workman—R. F. Stebbing.

†Public Workman—M. D. Naish.

Music Warden—G. Harrison.

Music Librarians—L. de V. Wragg, P. J. Callaghan, D. G. Griffiths.

Q. P. Concerts—I. S. C. Airey.

Pictureman—G. Harrison.

Lampmen—M. Whittering, F. A. G. Ferguson.

Church Ushers—J. B. Gooch, M. van den Driessche.

†Furniture Committee—G. J. Taylor, M. Whittering, T. C. Bass.

Church Collections and Deck Chairs—G. J. Taylor.

Stage Men—R. A. Dauncey, J. Shaw, F. A. G. Ferguson, P. K. Dale, J. H. Delefortrie, D. M. Tucker, M. A. Gooding, N. J. Price.

Librarians—J. B. Gooch, M. van den Driessche, J. R. Windsor, D. R. Poole, I. S. C. Airey.

Manual Foremen—R. D. Comley, H. E. Gough, J. C. Malpass, D. R. Poole.

Assistant Manual Foremen—C. C. Richardson, K. H. Stimson, N. J. Price, D. A. N. Hogarth, J. A. T. Goodborn.

Poultrymen—H. E. Gough, D. M. Tucker, T. C. Bass, P. K. Dale, T. J. Tudge, C. J. Webb, G. S. Bartlett.

†General Meeting Elections.

Correction.

Christmas Term, 1958.

Pictureman—G. Harrison.

Stagemen—R. A. Dauncey, J. Shaw, F. A. G. Ferguson, P. K. Dale, J. H. Delefortrie, N. J. Price, D. M. Tucker, M. A. Gooding.

MEETING OFFICERS.

Chairman—J. B. Gooch.

Secretary—R. A. Cockrell.

Games Captain—R. D. Comley.

Field Secretary—M. van den Driessche.

Games Committee—R. F. Stebbing, J. Shaw.

Boys' Banker—R. A. Dauncey.

Meeting Banker—J. R. Windsor.

Games Committee Treasurer—R. P. S. Harrison.

House Committee Treasurer—H. E. Gough.

Record Committee Treasurer—J. T. Wood.

Auditors—G. Harrison, R. F. Stebbing.

Senior Shopman—S. D. Hicks.

Shopmen—A. D. Heppleston, M. F. Ashe-Jones.

Entertainments Committee—R. F. Stebbing, T. L. H. Benbow,
M. C. Jones, P. J. Callaghan, D. G. Griffiths.

Cycle Committee—I. S. C. Airey, D. A. N. Hogarth, M. J. N. Bryant.

Breakages Man—J. H. Delefortrie.

Classical Record Committee—M. van den Driessche, J. B. Gooch, J. Shaw.

Light Record Committee—R. Bolton-King, T. L. H. Benbow.

Amplifier Technicians—R. Bolton-King, A. N. Hill.

Paperman—J. M. Webb.

Drying Room Committee—J. M. Webb, J. C. Malpass. C. C. Richardson.

Financial Advisory Committee—J. B. Gooch, P. G. S. Airey,
R. D. Comley.

Finance Committee Treasurer—G. S. Bartlett.

Finance Committee—J. R. A. Rawlings, R. C. Jones.

Chairman of Groundsmen—P. G. S. Airey.

Senior Hockey Groundsmen—D. A. Hodges, F. A. G. Ferguson,
D. R. Poole.

Junior Hockey Groundsmen—J. T. Wood, D. J. Tovey.

Cricket Groundsman—I. S. C. Airey.

Tennis Groundsman—P. B. Heppleston.

Hockey Games Wardens—M. J. N. Bryant, G. E. Chapman.

Rugby Games Warden—K. A. Walker.

Cricket Games Warden—C. B. Stillwell.

Tennis Games Warden—D. J. Thomasson.

Rugby Secretary, 1959—I. S. C. Airey.

Cricket Secretary, 1959—G. J. Taylor.

Hockey Secretary, 1959—J. R. Windsor.

Billiards Committee—R. Bolton-King, R. A. Dauncey, P. B. Heppleston.

Magazine Committee—G. Harrison, D. R. Poole, M. Whittering. Sledge
Committee—D. M. Tucker, R. J. Hayes, T. J. Tudge.

The Council—R. Bolton-King, J. B. Gooch, P. G. S. Airey, R. A.
Cockrell, M. van den Driessche, G. Harrison, J. Shaw.

Selection Committee—R. Bolton-King, J. B. Gooch, P. G. S. Airey,
J. R. Windsor, M. van den Driessche.

Rule Committee—G. Harrison, J. R. Windsor, M. van den Driessche.

Nominations Committee—J. B. Gooch, P. G. S. Airey, R. A. Cockrell,
J. R. Windsor, M. van den Driessche.

GENERAL MEETING NOTES.

Discussions were chiefly remarkable for the fact that no large issues were raised, and personal wrangling was happily largely absent. At the beginning of term there was a request for a larger

allowance for the Record Committees, on the grounds that the restriction to one twelve-inch and one ten-inch long-playing record was forcing the Classical Section to buy records which were not exactly what was required. Similar arguments were advanced by the Light Section of the Committee. Against this it was argued that we were only just paying our way at present and even small additional expenditure was a bad thing. However, the request was granted; the Classical Section are now allowed £4 and the Light Section £3.

The proposed Classical Record List was produced soon after this discussion. We have now added to our collection Mozart's Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, his Serenade in G (Eine Kliene Nachtmusik) and Vivaldi's "Four Seasons."

Among the many small decisions taken, one was to change the method of subsidizing Fixture Cards. Instead of paying a lump sum each term, the meeting now guarantees the price at four pence and pays the difference between this and the actual cost. Also, the Rule Committee suggested that they should revise duty- sheets as well as rules this year. These were in such a bad state that the Rule Committee itself had no duty-sheet.

A proposal to buy the "Daily Mail" instead of the "News Chronicle" was rejected, mainly because of the undue bias its purchase would produce in the library papers as a whole.

The most important discussion of the term was produced by a proposal that the meeting should buy a new amplifier, similar to the one possessed by the College. Because of its age and continual use, the present amplifier has been developing faults at an ever increasing rate and its power has been steadily dropping. After a long discussion it was decided that more investigation was needed, and a committee of five members was elected for this, purpose.

GAMES REPORT.

Autumn Term, 1958.

1st XV, Played 5, Won 3, Lost 2.

The opening match of the season against Hurn Court, a special arrangement after the beginning of term, did little to test the side. Rendcomb, better versed in the basic arts of football, won by 24-0, and were never really extended.

The second match, against Marlborough 3rd XV at Marlborough, produced opponents of a very different calibre. An early and rather lucky move by Marlborough seemed to demoralize Rendcomb, and a fit and enthusiastic Marlborough side ran up 18 points by half-time. Rendcomb pulled themselves together in the second half and started to play well, scoring 6 points in this half. The final score was 21-6.

The next match was against Cheltenham 3rd XV, away. Rendcomb had the better of the first half but failed to take advantage of either their possession or of their opponents' mistakes. Cheltenham, unlike Rendcomb, gave their three-quarters plenty of the ball; as the Cheltenham outsiders saw more of the ball, so their handling improved and eventually they broke through three times before the end of the game. The score was 9-0 to Cheltenham.

As a result of the cancellation of the Dean Close game (away), the next fixture was a return match with Cheltenham 3rd XV at home. This was a most enjoyable game, both sides playing good football. Rendcomb won 3-0, the solitary try being scored by van den Driessche after a good run.

The last match of the season, against Kingham Hill 1st XV at home, was played under difficult and tiring conditions of mud and mist. Rendcomb, playing together well as a side by this stage of the season, never really looked in danger of defeat, but were made to fight hard for their victory. The final score of 6-3 was a fair reflection of the game.

As will be gathered from the match reports, the First XV improved as the season progressed. This was due to the keenness and enthusiasm throughout the School, which offset the disadvantage of the side being unable to play together as a team except in matches.

The team placed most reliance, perhaps too much, on their forwards. This was understandable, as the back division only inspired confidence towards the end of the season.

R. D. Comley was an obvious choice for full-back. He was the main place kicker and a copy-book tackler. His form was rather variable and he was not always able to find his own high standard. R. Bolton-King was the mainspring of the three-quarters and made a great success of his move from wing to centre. Here he was partnered by R. A. Cockrell, a much improved player,

who shared the place-kicking with Comley and scored a magnificent try in the last match by selling several dummies on his way to the corner flag from the half-way line. J. Shaw, playing on the wing, was a deceptive runner who must conquer his tendency always to cut inside. D. M. Tucker won his place on the other wing by his forthright play and strong running. D. A. Hodges also played in the three-quarter line at the beginning of the season, but his defence is not yet up to the standard of his attacking play.

At fly-half, M. van den Driessche was a dangerous and fast runner in attack, a good defensive kicker and covered well. He has still to learn when to open up his three-quarters and to use the kick as an attacking move. He always received good service from R. F. Stebbing, playing at scrum-half, whose defensive covering and tackling were excellent. Stebbing has great capacity for taking punishment from opposing packs, and has only to learn the quick "steal away" to become a first-rate scrum-half.

P. Airey captained the side, playing first at lock forward and later in the front row. The side's gradual improvement speaks for his captaincy, and he put in a tremendous amount of work on the field. His line-out work was indispensable and his covering very useful. I. S. C. Airey was also a tireless worker, and covered well either at number eight or blind side wing-forward. F. A. G. Ferguson played at open-side wing-forward, harassing the opposing fly-halves and threes effectively.

M. D. Naish, an intelligent player, was partnered in the second row by D. R. Poole, where they both played well, J. B. Gooch at prop-forward played a hard game and at times showed up well in the loose. H. E. Gough played at hooker all season and made the occasional inspired break, but has not yet learned when to get rid of the ball. He played his role of number one in the line-out well.

M. Whittering, playing either at prop or blind-side wing-forward, was conspicuous for being up with the play. R. Dauncey was unlucky not to find a place in the side, being a good all-round utility player. He led the Second XV to a convincing victory in their only match, against Kingham Hill 2nd XV.

JUNIOR RUGGER.

The under 15 team did not distinguish itself this year, but it held its own reasonably well against Cheltenham and Marlborough—the Dean Close match was cancelled owing to weather.

It was a young team, especially the outsides, and on the whole our best attacks were developed by the forwards. The pack was a formidable one, but it got little chance of practice as a pack, as it was normally split between first and second games.

We were unlucky to lose N. J. Price early in the term, owing to injury; he showed great promise in the early games as fly-half. Amongst the outside players, T. G. W. Pettigrew showed signs of becoming a skilful and courageous scrum-half, and R. C. Jones, on the wing, was formidable both in attack and defence. J. M. Webb, at full-back, developed a powerful and accurate kick. Among the forwards, G. S. Bartlett, who captained the side, R. P. S. Harrison, R. A. D. Laws and J. R. Marshall all played good hard games and showed signs of becoming useful forwards.

Lack of fitness, the inability of some players to go really hard all through the game, together with lack of team-work, the desire for individual success, was to a certain extent responsible for our losing all three matches. These are points which need attention next year.

Second game was younger this year than it has been for some time, and while it produced some promising players and some keenness, it contained also a larger number of passengers than usual. Only when it is generally realised that rucker is a game for everyone, not merely for the gladiators, will second game regain the spirit which made it so enjoyable a year or two ago.

MEN IN SHADOW.

This play of the French Resistance, by Mary Hayley Bell, was presented in Big School, on November 27th, 28th and 29th, 1958, with the following cast:

Moy	Paul Harrison
German Officer	Michael Naish
First German Soldier	Mark Whittering
Cherie	Gerald Harrison
Kenny	Roger Stebbing
Polly	Jonathan Shaw
Commando Soldier	Peter Airey
Lew	Stewart Airey
Mordan	Simon Hicks
Enshaw	Robert Comley
Second German Soldier	David Poole

Prompter: John Marshall.

Stagemen: Robert Dauncey, Jonathan Shaw, Frank Ferguson, David Tucker, Peter Dale, Julian Delefortrie, Mark Gooding.

The play itself is undistinguished—a straightforward thriller, unfolding a sequence of events rather than a plot. There is plenty of physical agony, a certain crude tension and no subtlety. The dialogue lacks wit; and the author misses her one chance to make the play really interesting, because she fails to develop the interplay of contrasting characters under stress.

The action, which takes place in a disused mill near the French coast in 1942, covers 36 hours in the life of three R. A. F. men. After crashing and being sheltered on a farm by Moy and his mother Cherie, they are now at work with the French Resistance. Their leader, Lew, has just killed the local Gestapo chief; and their escape is complicated by the intrusions of a stray commando, a crashed airman (Mordan) with two broken legs, a disguised enemy agent (Enshaw) and sundry German soldiers. Mordan exposes Enshaw, who is smartly throttled. Lew, after hiding all night from two drunken Germans who blunder in, hoists Mordan painfully through a trapdoor and finally escapes, under the nose of an easily deceived German officer, by pretending to be Moy's mad brother. A desultory game of poker and the setting of Mordan's broken bones serve to lengthen the proceedings.

The cast, producer and stagemen made the most of this unpromising material. The action was vigorous, the excitement well maintained and the words, for the most part, clearly spoken. The set was simple but effective, the lighting and sound effects successfully handled. The costumes and make-up were excellent, except in the case of Enshaw, who seemed much too clean and neat for one masquerading as a crashed airman.

The longest parts are those of the airmen, Lew and Kenny, and that of Mordan. Stebbing played the cockney Kenny with life and feeling; he was competently supported by Shaw, as his friend Polly. Stewart Airey sustained the part of Lew with the necessary air of mystery and quiet authority—a very good piece of acting, though his words were occasionally indistinct. He and Hicks were impressive in the painful incident of the setting of Mordan's legs. Hicks, indeed, maintained his long part excellently throughout; he portrayed, with equal success in turn, his pain, his boredom and the sharp cunning of the runaway on the defensive against Enshaw. Moy had a suitably Gallic appearance, and Paul Harrison nearly overcame the difficulties of an Englishman pretending to be a Frenchman trying to speak English. Comley managed the gradual change from suave self-confidence to

trapped panic quite well, and died with some nicely executed gurgles. Naish made a distinctly Prussian-looking officer; and his soldiers—drunk or sober—were acted with enthusiastic bestiality by Whittering and Poole. Peter Airey, as the incidental commando soldier, gave us the right sense of cheerful, fatalistic, slightly ribald readiness for self-sacrifice. Gerald Harrison was, perhaps, a trifle too stolid and unemotional as Cherie; but it is only fair to add that this part has very little to offer.

One's final word must be of congratulation to all concerned, on doing a first-class job with the second-rate material at their disposal.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC.

A Service of Christmas Music was given in Rendcomb Church on Sunday, December 14th, by the Choir, accompanied by a string orchestra and organ.

The Service started with "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," sung by choir and congregation. Then the orchestra and organ played the Overture to Handel's "Messiah." The orchestration was -the original one used by Handel, with a delightful organ continuo.

Next came one of the chorales from Bach's "Christmas Oratorio," "Break forth O beauteous, heavenly light," which occurs in the Oratorio just after the Narrator has announced the birth of Christ. The choir sang with orchestral accompaniment, for the most part well, but some over-caution with the high notes amongst the basses made them sing flat.

The next item was perhaps the most impressive of the whole Service, a short extract from the Cantata "Wachet Auf" by Bach, "Zion hears her watchmen's voices." This cantata, written for performance in Advent, was one of many written by Bach as a matter of routine, to be sung between the Epistle and Gospel as a comment on their message. The two verses sung are based on the words and tune Of a German chorale, each verse receiving varied musical treatment. The hymn tune is sung without decoration, but each line is interspersed with a counter-melody. The first verse, written for tenor soloist, was sung by the trebles. They sang firmly, with pure tone and clear diction; their well trained enthusiasm combined with Bach's exquisite genius to produce a memorable performance. The whole choir combined with dignity and confidence in the second verse.

The orchestra then accompanied Mr. Eric Suddrick in Handel's Organ Concerto No. 2 in B flat. Once again the ponderous grandeur of Victorian Gothic was dispensed with, in favour of the soft stops of mellow tone used by Handel. Mr. Suddrick played with great distinction, and the joyful delicacy of the performance brought home the ill-service done to Handel by much contemporary interpretation.

After choir and congregation had sung the carol, "Unto us a Boy is born!" the orchestra played the Pastoral Symphony from "Messiah." The choir followed with two carols, "A virgin most pure" and "Sing lullaby, Lullaby baby now reclining." They sang these with good pitch and balance and clear articulation, but were perhaps a little inclined to drag the tempo.

After the lesson, the first fourteen verses of St. John's Gospel, choir and orchestra gave the chorus from "Messiah," "And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed"; and the Service ended with the carol, "O come, all ye faithful" sung by choir and congregation, with a spirited orchestral accompaniment arranged by Mr. Tooze.

This Service gave the congregation a rare pleasure; it was a discriminating choice of beautiful things from the rich store of Christmas music which we have inherited. All performers are to be heartily thanked, and it is worth mentioning that the choir, while suffering from an unusually virulent set of colds, did not allow this to mar their performance. It was very greatly to be regretted that Miss Wadna Keil, who was to have played the solo part in a Vivaldi concerto grosso, was prevented from playing by illness. The difficulty of arranging choir practices during the very busy fortnight at the end of term, a last-minute revision of the programme and other minor difficulties all left Mr. Tooze not a whit less determined to give us what he did give us, a distinguished and moving service. We are deeply in the debt of Mr. Suddrick, who answered a last-minute appeal, and to all the members of the orchestra who so generously gave their time to come and play for us.

Members of the Orchestra:

Violins—Miss E. Williams, Mrs. W. T. Goodman, Mrs. G. Mackworth-Young, Mr. C. Vincent; Violas—Mrs. M. Wilkinson, Mr. G. W. B. Armitage; 'Cellos—Miss C. Trafford, Mr. C. M. Swaine; Organist—Mr. E. Suddrick; Conductor—Mr. J. Tooze.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.

This was the most interesting party that we have had for several years. During the previous year a special committee of the General Meeting considered the future of our Christmas festivities and made a report which recommended important changes, especially to the organisation in the background. This particular party was, therefore, regarded by many people as a test case"; its success or failure might have a marked effect on future Rendcomb Christmases.

The most noticeable change was that there was less performing by the committee than in recent years. This is not an adverse criticism. In the past the special theme of the party has been overpowering. Committees have tended to produce ever more elaborate erections and ever longer acts. This has meant too little time for work on the party proper. This year the committee appeared as local dignitaries at a village fete. There were no set pieces.

More people were concerned with the organisation of the party this year. The termly Entertainments Committee organised the dancing, and most of the upper part of the School were concerned in one way or another. This probably had much to do with the great improvement in that indefinable spirit which marks a good party. The friendly and co-operative atmosphere in which the preparations were made, and the industry evident in the high quality of the fancy dress, enhanced the success of the evening.

The fancy dresses were unusually well made. At the end of the party there were far fewer of those all-too-familiar figures, dressed in the tatters of their collapsed costumes.

Competitions were presented in an original way, and much less expert knowledge was required from entrants than in recent years. Most were of the "pot-luck" type: one had to guess the height of the Christmas tree or the weight of the entire End of Term Entertainments Committee. Others required some skill or knowledge, but were not restricted to the avid readers of aeroplane or film journals. Their excellence was shown by the number of entries (thirty or more people took part in many of them) and by the early emptiness of the dance floor. At one time we saw the remarkable sight of a "Paul Jones" being danced by only two couples!

The originality of the decorations, especially in "Saul's Hall," showed the wisdom of the committee spending less time on acts and stunts. The walls of Saul's Hall were almost entirely covered by hanging streamers which produced an unusual, vaguely Eastern effect and well repaid the Committee's work on them. The ceiling was hidden by a large net filled with balloons. These were released and burst during the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

There was a public reading of entries submitted for a short-story competition earlier in the term, and a performance by the "Cowboy Kings." This rhythm group attracted a large and admiring "beat-generation" audience after refreshments. They entertained us with steady favourites which required a greater degree of skill than the outmoded Rock 'n' Roll. It was unfortunate for them that they lacked the novelty of their predecessors, the "Rocking Belles."

Many of the sketches this year were musical items. A group of four songs, called collectively "Cries of Old Rendcomb," filled the intervals between longer sketches. The sordid tale of a "Gloucester schoolboy" was sung to the tune of the "Lincolnshire Poacher," and another very amusing song described a delicate situation at a rugby match. Once again the lyrics were written by Mr. Sells and the music arranged by Mr. Tooze. The speed at which sketches were performed, and the absence of long gaps between them, were noticeable. An unusual feature was the small number of "startling revelations" about the contemporary Rendcomb underworld. Can it be that the underworld is less active at the moment, or is it that our information service is not up to its old standard? The standard of performance was unusually high, especially in view of the short time available for rehearsing.

The splendid feast which Miss Babington and her staff provide each year is, for many people, the most important part of the party; and we are indeed grateful for the work done to provide this.

The Headmaster's presence was keenly missed. Because of his illness he had to be in hospital for most of the last week of term. We believe that this was the first party he has failed to attend since he came to Rendcomb.

We feel that the party was a definite improvement on those of past years, in that there was so much more to do, that more people were concerned with the organisation and that the atmosphere was that of a party rather than a performance. But let us again be clear that we are not criticising our predecessors. We have gained by their experience.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

Autumn Term, 1958.

The West of England Old Rendcombian Dinner was held at Hottt's Restaurant, Bristol, on Saturday, 15th November, 1958. The dinner was preceded by the Annual General Meeting, at which it was learnt with relief and pleasure that Austen Magor has agreed to carry on the Secretaryship for a further 18 months, after which R. H. Jones will take over from him. The accounts, in immaculate shape, were duly presented and accepted—with thanks to Magor for their preparation and to Jack Allen for the auditing. M. J. Bedwell will be Chairman for the coming year and C. J. Brisley, after a successful period of office in the West, has been re-elected as Vice-Chairman so that in 1959/60 he may again hold the major office. J. C. Maslin continues as Registrar. An important part of the evening's work was the presentation and acceptance of the Rules of the Society in a condensed form, prepared by Mr. C. H. C. Osborne and C. J. Brisley. The list of rules codifies all the regulations that have been passed since the inception of the Society in 1932 but which, being scattered throughout the Minute Books, are difficult of access for a new Secretary or Chairman. With a very few amendments the Rules were accepted in the form presented and so now represent the constitution of the Society.

The gathering was a small one, but was greatly enjoyed, and some of those who had come long distances made it clear that they felt the time had been well spent. In the course of discussion it was found that there are over 40 O. R. s in the Bristol area alone.

The following were present: P. Alder, J. E. Allen, F. J. Batten, A. E. A. Brain, C. J. Brisley, T. Gay, M. R. Hancock, L. W. H. Hull, E. A. Jones, R. H. Jones, D. W. Lee-Browne, A. C. Magor, H. T. G. Price, J. W. J. Reed, N. Slade, W. Smallwood, D. C. Terrett, R. Tuft.

Will Old Rendcombians please make a note that John Gough has taken over the organising of the O. R. Hockey and Cricket sides. His home address is Charnwood Hall, Nanpantan, Loughborough, but as he is likely to be moving about during the next few months it will probably be quicker to write to him c/o the College. We shall be in touch with him.

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We congratulate R. J. van den Driessche on obtaining the M. Sc. degree of Toronto University.

R. W. Taylor has been accepted for entry to Seale Hayne Agricultural College in October 1959. In the meantime he is working on a farm.

We have been informed that Powys Thomas and his wife are both established in the Shakespeare Company at Stratford, Ontario, Canada.

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Timothy Gay has a place at Loughborough Technical College for September 1959.

THE BOY WITH A CART.

A Play by Christopher Fry.

Characters, in order of their appearance:

The People of South England

Peter Airey, Gerald Harrison, Roger Windsor,
Trevor Benbow, John Webb, David G. Griffiths Cuthman Robert
Cockrell

Bess
Mildred } Cornish Villagers
Matt
Tib

Paul Heppleston
Keith Stimson
David Tucker
Hugh Gough

Cuthman's Mother
Mowers

Michael Forster, Robert Comley, Christopher Handoll,
John Alder

Old Tawm Anthony Hill
Tawm's Daughter Lawrence Wragg
Tawm's Son-in-law John Marshall
Villagers of Steyning, Sussex

Frank Ferguson, John Goodborn, Daniel Thomasson,
Tom Bass, Russell Jones

A Farmer Roger Stebbing
Alfred) Sons of Mrs. Fipps (Peter Callaghan
Demiwulf) (David Laws
Mrs. Fipps John Malpass

Prompter: Roger Stebbing.

Flautist: David R. G. Griffiths.

Carpenters: Martin Jones, Christopher Webb.

NATURAL HISTORY SUPPLEMENT

March 1959.

Some Larger Fungi of the Rendcomb District, Autumn 1958.

There was a certain amount of interest in Fungi during the autumn. In addition to there being a good crop of 'toadstools,' and perhaps because of this, there seemed also to be a general 'fungus-consciousness' among members of the College. As usual Conigre Wood proved a fruitful hunting ground, although many of the more usual species were found elsewhere.

The fungi listed below are not representative of those discovered since many remained unidentified owing to the inadequacy of our knowledge and of the identification facilities. Species of *Clitocybe*, *Collybia*, *Lepiota*, *Lactarius*, *Russula* and *Hydnum* were traced only to their *Genus* and some not determined even so far as this.

Bulgaria inquinans was found growing profusely on a felled elm on the edge of the 'Wilderness' near 'Top.'

The fructification is blackish-brown with the consistency of india rubber.

Leotia lubrica, a yellowish-orange fungus with a translucent appearance, is deceptive because it resembles a Basidiomycete ‘cap’ fungus whereas it is a member of the Ascomycetes. Several were found under hazels in Conigre Wood in early October.

Xylaria hypoxylon, the Candle-snuff fungus, was common on dead wood in many places from the beginning of November and the black clubs of *X. polymorpha*, the Witches Fingers, were seen to be growing on a lime log in the Old Rectory paddock in early October.

Helvetia crispa was common in the Slippery Path Wood in October.

The foregoing fungi all belong to the Ascomycetes; the following species to the Basidiomycetes.

Amanita phalloides, most poisonous of fungi, was common throughout October in Conigre Wood. A single diminutive specimen of the beautiful *A. pantherina* was found beneath a beech bordering the Cirencester Drive in November. This, the Panther-cap, looks an enticing dish with its grey, white-flecked cap but is extremely poisonous.

Lepiota cristata was found in grassy patches in Conigre Wood in late October and one specimen of the uncommon *L. cinnabarina* was likewise collected in the same area. These moderate sized species were dwarfed by the large, smooth-capped *L. lenticularis*, whose pinkish-tan caps amid fallen leaves and grass in Conigre Wood supplied a colourful display in the latter part of October.

Armillaria mellea, the honey-fungus, a saprophyte or dangerous parasite of trees, was found in large clusters on an old elm stump near the Temple in October and fresh clusters were still developing well into November. The slimy white caps of the widely distributed *A. mucida* were to be found on beech in Conigre Wood, the Slippery Path Wood and in the Park throughout late October and November.

The edible Wood Blewit, *Tricholoma nudum*, was discovered in fair numbers in Conigre Wood during October. Its colour ranges from a pale purplish blue to a washed-out bluish brown.

Clitocybe nebularis was extremely common in Conigre Wood, occurring both in patches and in imperfect rings at the beginning of October. It is edible and its brown cap reaches a diameter of seven or eight inches. *C. infundibuliformis* was found in only one place in the same wood and even there in no great numbers. The mature fructification is funnel-shaped, the centre of the cap being deeply depressed.

But one example of *Omphalia hydrogramma* was found, and that in Conigre Wood in November. It is said to be edible. *Collybia ventricosa* was found in the same area on two occasions in October, each time as an isolated specimen, and one fruit-body of the imposing *Hebeloma subsaponaceum* was likewise recorded in October.

Psalliota xanthoderma, the Yellow-staining Mushroom, is so called because it turns yellow from pressure or damage. It is referred to as 'suspicious,' that is, probably poisonous. Said to be the most flavoursome of our mushrooms, *P. augusta* grows to a large size but is unfortunately rather rare. One of each of these species was found in Conigre Wood in October.

Hypholoma fasciculare, the Sulphur Tuft, occurred in several parts of Conigre Wood as large yellow clusters on old stumps, and *Hygrophorus calyptraeformis* was discovered in small numbers in the same wood and in a neighbouring field in October.

Coprinus comatus, the edible Shaggy Ink-cap, was fruiting in several places during October. Large quantities of an orange, felt-like growth on lime logs in the Old Rectory paddock, were also discovered. This was long called by the generic name *Ozonium* but is now known to be a stage in the life of a previously named fungus, usually *Coprinus radians*, of which one fructification was observed developing among the tangle of orange threads.

Russula olivascens provided us with one specimen near the Cirencester drive in October, where it was associated with the poisonous red *R. emetica*, but was more plentiful in Conigre Wood where the latter species was little in evidence. *Laccaria laccata* and its variety *amethystina* were exceedingly common in this wood in September and October.

Schizophyllum commune, an unusual and very interesting fungus with gills that are longitudinally split, was found on a stump in the Wilderness in late October and again on felled elm branches near the Temple in November. An excellent cluster of the brackets of *Polystichtus versicolor* was found on a log beside the College back drive in early November.

Clavaria cinerea and *C. cristata*, species of coral-like fungus which closely resemble each other, were found in abundance in Conigre Wood from late September into November. The large single clubs of *C. pistillaris* were noted as fairly plentiful this autumn. A few of the bright yellow fingers of *C. inaequalis* were seen near the Cirencester drive bridge over the river in late September.

The Beech Bracket fungus, *Ganoderma applanatam*, occurred in luxuriant growth on a beech on the far edge of Conigre Wood. It has been observed on another beech beside the drive through the Slippery Path Wood for several years past and is still making new growth.

Polyporus mollis covered a fallen conifer near the Eycot road quarry with a large number of bracket-shaped fructifications. The species of *Fomes* which is steadily killing the Horse-chestnut tree at the top of the Slippery Path, and which has just begun to produce sporophores, has not yet been identified with certainty.

Lycoperdon pyriforme, a common puff-ball, was, as always in autumn, plentiful in Conigre Wood, forming clumps on old stumps. A few specimens of *L. saccatum*, a fairly large puff-ball, were to be found in the same wood during October.

The Earth Star, *Geaster triplex*, was again found in Conigre Wood in early October but this time at some distance from the original locality. It is difficult to discover how common it is because of its close resemblance to its surroundings; this year's sporophores could not be located again when searched for thoroughly a week later.

M. van den Driessche.

Miscellaneous Notes, September 1st to December 31st, 1958.

Crossbills were seen and heard somewhat irregularly until the middle of November, but they were much less in evidence than during

August (see Vol. 11, No. 7, p. 23). Single Hawfinches were recorded on October 14th and 16th near the College and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, no doubt always present but seldom seen, were heard calling on several dates in October and early in November. Only one Siskin was reported during the autumn, a bird which flew into some alders below the College on November 9th. Redwings were not noted until October 18th and Fieldfares some days later. Neither species was numerous in the district before the end of the year, and we had no records of that other frequent winter visitor, the Brambling.

Small bats, almost certainly Common Bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), were watched flying in broad daylight on several afternoons in December. This little mammal cannot be said to hibernate very profoundly, for any mild spell in winter is liable to rouse it to activity.

An interesting insect, the scarlet and black beetle *Endomychus coccineus*, was found in the Slippery Path Wood by members of Form II in mid-October. There were nearly two dozen of these conspicuously coloured beetles in a tight cluster beneath a fallen beech-log. This insect is an inhabitant of beech woods and is far from common.

C. M. Swaine, B. Sc.