

RENDCOMB
COLLEGE
CHRONICLE

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March, 1962

Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 12, No. 5.

March 1962

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COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Easter Term, 1962.

Senior Prefect—H. E. Gough.

Group Leaders and Prefects—J. M. Webb, P. B. Heppleston,
C. C. Richardson, R. J. Parnell, L. de V. Wragg,
J. C. Malpass.

College Workman—R. J. Parnell.

†Public Workman—D. A. N. Hagarth.

Music Warden—P. B. Heppleston.

Music Librarian—D. G. Griffiths.

Choir Librarians—R. J. Edy, D. J. Maberley.

Q. P. Concerts—R. A. D. B. Laws.

Picture Man—J. R. Marshall.

Lamp Men—J. A. T. Goodborn, G. S. Bartlett.

Church Ushers—J. R. Marshall, J. C. Malpass.

Church Collections and Deck Chairs—A. J. Cattermole.

Stage Men—J. A. T. Goodborn, M. C. Jones, D. G. Griffiths,
J. Mitchison, S. H. Shellswell.

†Furniture Committee—C. J. Webb, R. A. D. B. Laws,
A. D. Heppleston.

Librarians—P. B. Heppleston, S. Greenlaw, T. C. Bass, C. B. Stillwell,
D. Little.

Manual Foremen—J. A. T. Goodborn, K. H. Stimson, R. S. Lowe,
J. Mitchison.

Notices Men—K. H. Stimson, A. J. Cattermole.

† General Meeting Elections.

GENERAL MEETING OFFICERS.

Easter Term, 1962.

Chairman—C. C. Richardson.

Secretary—S. Greenlaw.

Games Captain—J. M. Webb.

Vice-Captain—H. E. Gough.

Games Committee—C. C. Richardson, T. G. W. Pettigrew.
 Meeting Banker—K. A. Walker.
 Boys' Banker—J. R. Marshall.
 Senior Shopman—M. A. Gooding.
 Shopmen—D. J. Mabblerley, F. Bolton-King.
 Games Committee Treasurer—R. J. Verge.
 House Committee Treasurer—D. Little.
 Finance Committee Treasurer—W. A. Thompson.
 Record Committee Treasurer—D. J. Henderson.
 Auditors—C. B. Stillwell, A. J. Cattermole, M. F. Ashe-Jones.
 Financial Advisory Committee—J. T. Wood, T. C. Bass.
 Finance Committee—M. J. Dawson, R. W. Hole.
 Hockey Secretary—D. J. Thomasson.
 Cricket Secretary—D. J. Tovey.
 Rugby Football Secretary—R. C. Jones.
 Entertainments Committee—C. C. Richardson, G. S. Bartlett,
 M. F. Ashe-Jones, N. C. Creffield, W. T. G. Griffiths.
 Cycle Committee—T. Tucker, B. R. Ferguson, G. F. Smith.
 Classical Record Committee—P. B. Heppleston, S. Greenlaw,
 J. J. Schwarzmantel.
 Light Record Committee—H. E. Gough, G. S. Bartlett.
 Amplifier Technicians—R. J. Parnell, J. R. A. Rawlings.
 Hockey Games Wardens—R. P. Goodchild, G. C. Cattermole.
 Cricket Games Warden—F. R. Glennie.
 Rugby Games Warden—D. Burman.
 Tennis Games Warden—R. J. Edy.
 Badminton Games Warden—B. R. Ferguson.
 Drying Room Committee—E. Taylor, D. J. Mabblerley, B. Pullen.
 Paperman—J. J. Schwarzmantel.
 Breakages Man—B. R. Ferguson.
 Film Committee—J. C. Malpass, M. H. Ferguson.
 Magazine Committee—R. J. Hayes, J. C. Malpass, M. C. Jones.
 The Council—T. C. Bass, H. E. Gough, L. de V. Wragg,
 P. B. Heppleston, C. C. Richardson, K. A. Walker,
 J. M. Webb.
 Rule Committee—C. B. Stillwell, K. A. Walker, C. J. Webb.

Nominations Committee—T. C. Bass, H. E. Gough, C. C. Richardson,
C. B. Stillwell, J. C. Malpass.
Billiards Committee—J. C. Malpass, T. G. W. Pettigrew,
D. J. Thomasson.
Sledge Committee—G. C. Cattermole, R. D. Dale, S. D. Richards.
Chairman of Groundstaff—R. J. Parnell.
Senior Groundstaff—G. E. Chapman, R. B. Denny, M. J. Bartlett.
Junior Groundstaff—R. P. Dale, P. V. Rayner.
Senior Tennis Groundsman—R. S. Lowe.

MEETING NOTES.

Christmas Term, 1961.

This term's Meeting activities tended to be more lengthy than for many terms. This was helped by the immediate interest in the Meeting's affairs shown by the Headmaster, who attended all but two of the term's meetings.

We were very glad to accept the College's generous offer concerning the showing of films. This involved the College in financing the servicing of film-showing equipment, paying fully for the hire of educational films, and in providing £10 towards the cost of recreational films.

After a great deal of research into the advantages offered by Lilleywhite Frowd Ltd., in the purchase of sports equipment, a visit by the Games Captain to Woofs, of Cheltenham, proved so profitable that it was decided to continue our business with Woofs, under a new discount of 15% to Staff and boys as well as to the Meeting.

It was finally decided, after some considerable discussion on the subject of buying gramophone records, that the Entertainments Committee should receive an additional 15/- to their allowance, and be responsible for the purchase of dance records. The Light Record Committee's allowance was also raised by 10/-.

A number of smaller proposals were passed, notably that the Meeting should discontinue its purchase of the *Elizabethan* and replace it by the *World Sports*; the Greenmeadow Race was initiated as a replacement of the Lodges Race; and the Headmaster was to attempt to arrange a dance in co-operation with a girls' school for next term.

SCHOOL NOTES.
Autumn Term, 1961.

Mr. Toogood, who was appointed here as groundsman last September, died very suddenly on January 19th. He had already made his mark here by his cheerfulness and kindness. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Toogood and her daughters in their sorrow.

* * * *

We welcome Mr. W. J. D. White, who was English assistant at the Lycée Guy Lussac, at Limoges, France. He joins us to take charge of Latin. To the visiting music staff we welcome Mr. Mark Foster to teach organ and piano. He was at the Royal College of Music where he studied horn and organ, and was organist at Stroud Parish Church before moving to Cirencester. He has played in various London orchestras. Mr. Foster joins the College music staff for one year.

We are glad to welcome Miss G. Meyrick-Jones who joined us as Linen Room Matron in June last.

We welcome Miss P. Dawson and Miss A. M. Lewis, who came in September to take charge of the catering after the appointment of the Sutcliffe Catering Company as the College caterers.

* * * *

The following boys, to whom we extend a warm welcome, joined the College at the beginning of the Autumn Term: P. J. Hamnett, M. R. Parker, R. J. Wood, R. Hunt, W. Simpson, C. Maberley, M. Harrop, A. Pain, M. Barnes, C. Stevens, P. Chanin, J. Hemming, N. Green, R. Thompson, B. Pullen, D. Burman, A. E. Pocock, M. McKeown, F. Bolton-King.

We bid farewell to R. P. S. Harrison and wish him well in the future.

* * * *

In 1946 Mrs. Sinclair presented to the College two 'cellos. The College has recently taken the opportunity of having the better of these instruments valued. It was found that this 'cello was made about 1725 by Paolo Testori and is worth about £650. At the suggestion of Mrs. Sinclair, two silver plates have been engraved and affixed, one to each instrument. Each bears the following inscription: "This 'cello was owned and played by Noel Wills, our Founder, and was presented to the College by his widow."

We congratulate H. E. Gough on winning an Open Scholarship in History at Exeter College, Oxford.

J. M. Webb is to be congratulated on captaining the West of England schoolboys' hockey team against the South of England on January 6th, 1962.

We acknowledge receipt of *The Wycliffe Star*, *Frensham Heights* magazine, *The Framlinghamian*, *The Gresham* and *The Decanian*.

We are grateful to Mrs. Stillwell for a gift of books to the College Library.

A Grand Dance was held at the College on December 2nd and a number of ladies were welcomed for the evening.

The College 16-millimeter sound projector came into use during the term and the following films were shown: "A Tale of Two Cities," "The Baby and the Battleship," "A Night to Remember."

On October 28th a large party from Forms IV, V and VI visited Cheltenham Town Hall to hear a concert by the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Some members of the VIth Form visited the Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, on November 6th to see a performance of Shakespeare's *Richard The Third*; the Vth Form and some members of the VIth Form saw *Romeo and Juliet* in the same Theatre on November 20th.

Members of the IVth, Vth and VIth Forms paid a visit to Stroud on November 16th to hear The New English Consort playing Mediaeval, Renaissance and modern music.

On November 29th a party from the VIth Form visited The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, to see a performance of *A Man for all Seasons*, by Robert Bolt.

VIth Form singers and instrumentalists joined Cheltenham Music Society in an informal concert on December 8th.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

December 1961

The following passes were obtained in the December examination at "O" level:

K. J. Fowler—French.

J. A. T. Goodborn—English Language.

D. G. Griffiths—Latin.

R. C. Jones—Physics.

T. Tucker—French.

C. J. Webb—English Literature.

H. E. Gough, J. M. Webb and J. C. Malpass obtained distinction in History at the "A" level examination in July 1961. We regret that these distinctions were not recorded in the last issue of the *Rendcomb College Chronicle*.

CAROL SERVICE, 1961

A service of Lessons and Carols was held on December 17th. Congregations are very conservative in their musical tastes as any vicar who has tried to introduce a new hymn book for use in his church will tell you. So, when plans are made in September for a Carol Service two conflicting requirements have to be born in mind: the congregation's liking for the familiar, and a real need for the choir to learn something new to avoid staleness.

This year, with a business acumen which could be expected, Oxford University Press published a new Carol Book in September, well in time for use at Christmas. This turned out to be excellent in every way, and we bought copies. It contained something new and something old, but the old favourites were newly arranged with fresh accompaniments and harmonies. Thus, the old favourites would satisfy the conservatives, the choir would be pleased with the new arrangements, and there were some new carols for those who wanted them.

The old favourites in new guises which we sang were *Angels From The Realms of Glory*; *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* (with a wonderful organ part for the last verse); *Unto Us Is Born a Son* (again with a wonderful last verse where the choir and organ have free parts and the congregation should sing the tune if they are not confused by the beauty of the conflicting sounds coming from the Chancel).

New to our services was a Czech Carol called "Rocking" (*Little Jesus do not stir, We will lend a coat of fur*), and *No Sad Thoughts His Soul Affright*, by Vaughn Williams, and a

completely new departure from custom—a secular carol from Devon, *We wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*, instead of the concluding organ voluntary.

This is an account of the Service rather than a criticism, the writer being too closely connected with the performance to give a detached judgment, but we hope it was enjoyed by the congregation as much as by those of us who took part, though, naturally, we would like to have done better than we did—a common feeling among those who have done a public performance.

Once again we are grateful to Mr. John Sanders, Director of Music at King's School, Gloucester, and Sub-organist at the Cathedral, for coming to play the organ.

Lessons were read by the Headmaster and the following boys: J. A. Hiscox, J. J. Schwarzmantel, G. S. Bartlett, M. C. Jones, J. C. Malpass, P. B. Heppleston.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The party this year revolved round the theme of an Indian camp, the atmosphere being derived from a grotesque and impressive totem pole and immense mural of typical Western scenes, not to mention numerous other Indian representations. The whole was typical of the imagination and ingenuity of the Christmas Party Committee.

The kitchen staff is to be congratulated on the excellent meal which they prepared, for which so many Rendcomb boys fast so long beforehand. Refreshments this year were unique in that they included a supply of punch—finished before many were able to sample it.

The sketches, attended as usual by a number of outside guests, varied from the simple but effective “Purely Psychological,” demonstrating the technique employed by one desirous to sleep alone on a park bench to achieve his aim when he is pestered by those with similar intentions, to a sketch portraying life in the “Quiet Room” on a Friday afternoon. This was written by a member of and acted by the Arts contingent of the Quiet Room. The performance concluded with an extremely polished song about the actors themselves, sung to the tune of the “Drinking Song” from *La Traviata*.

Mr. Tooze must be congratulated on the high standard

and original arrangement of the music, while the praise for the script should go to Mr. Sells.

Garibaldi and the Red Shirts played music for jiving in the interval between the end of the sketches and beginning of refreshments.

The fancy dress this year perhaps deviated from the higher standard of last year. A somewhat alarming proportion appeared as beatniks, denoting a rather apathetic interest. Though the first prize went to a member of Form III, the main talent lay in the Sixth Form.

The competitions were less copious than last year, but undoubtedly varied and interesting. They were assembled in a special compartment constructed at the base of the main stairs.

The party as always proved a great success, and the greatest reward to the Christmas Party Committee must surely be to see everyone enjoying himself.

RUGGER REPORT, 1961

Rugger at Rendcomb this season benefited from two welcome innovations: a third games day, and an extended fixture list. The introduction of an extra games day allowed greater scope for concentrated practice, and facilitated a higher degree of fitness. The extension of the fixture list, which allowed the 1st XV eight fixtures, gave more valuable match practice, and stronger opposition, the latter of which is essential for a higher standard of rugby.

The keenness and good will predominant in First Game this season greatly helped all attempts to raise the standard of rugby. The emphasis this year was on an open, fast game, with as much handling as possible; kicking, the base of much contemporary rugby, was severely restricted. The success of this policy resulted in a very fast game and a comparatively high degree of fitness; we were also able to give attention to specific tactics, and although these were little used during matches, they provided a stimulating variety in practice. The success of these methods can be judged from the results: the 1st XV won five games out of seven, and by scoring 221 points almost doubled the previous points record.

The pack this year was light, fast, and well drilled in feeding the ball to the backs. Improved technique in the tight scrums and lineouts, coupled with speed in the loose, compensated

for the lack of weight. However the pack often revealed a lack of determination which is essential to a good pack; the resulting lack of possession lost us matches.

C. C. Richardson, R. A. D. B. Laws and J. T. Wood constituted the front row for most of the season. Although he found difficulty in binding in the tight, Richardson had developed by the end of the season into a fine loose forward, working hard in loose scrums and covering back well. He performed a valuable service as pack-leader, and by the end of the season led the pack by example and often rallied it.

R. A. D. B. Laws completed his second season at prop forward and was one of our best forwards. He performed best when led by the pack leader, but could always be relied upon to give his utmost and to strive to do better. J. T. Wood was a valuable hooker in the tight scrums, and we could rely upon at least our fair share of the ball. His loose play was, however, very weak, and he contributed little to the strength of the pack in this respect.

G. S. and M. J. Bartlett played in the second row. G. S. Bartlett was undoubtedly our best forward. He packed and pushed well in the tight, and his speed, weight and tackle made him an outstanding loose forward both in attack and defence. His lineout work was the best in the side, and gave us frequent possession. M. J. Bartlett was a vastly improved player from last year. His loose play gained him his place in the 1st XV; his handling and passing were noticeably good, and his loose scrumming intelligent. Although at times he flagged, his keenness and willingness to learn made him well worth his place.

C. B. Stillwell played at open-side wing forward; his positioning from the tight scrums was intelligent; and his devastating tackle made him most effective in scotching opposing three-quarter movements. His loose play was extremely energetic and spirited, although occasionally marred by a tendency not to look for the pass. R. A. Sewell played at No. 8 except for a brief period near the end of the season. At his best he positioned himself well and tackled very effectively; but at times he faded completely out of the game. His attacking work was weak. M. F. Ashe-Jones played at blind-side wing forward for most of the season. At times he was prominent, trapping the opposing scrum-half and tackling low and hard; but he lacked spirit and stamina and eventually 16st his place to R. S. Lowe. Lowe, who had previously deputized at Belmont Abbey,

found a place in the second row, before playing at wing forward. He was a fast, quick-thinking attacking player whose energy contributed a great deal to our loose play; he also was most effective at breaking through lineouts, and scored two tries.

J. Mitchison deputized in the 1st XV on two occasions; at outside-centre and scrum-half. However, his true position was in the pack, where, had it not been for a suspected injury, his tireless and courageous play might well have gained him a permanent place.

The backs were our main striking power, and the fact that they scored 43 out of 49 tries bears witness not only to their own ability but also to the efficiency of the forwards, who obtained possession for them. T. G. W. Pettigrew was the strong link between the forwards and backs. His work at scrum-half improved progressively throughout the season. His service was fast, and always reliable, and he used the break from the base of the scrum to good effect. His experience and drive were most valuable.

The three-quarter line remained unchanged throughout the season, except as a result of injury. J. R. Marshall and P. B. Heppleston played together in the centre. Marshall, a fast and, at best, determined runner, was the heaviest person in the side. Although he was occasionally reluctant to accelerate to top speed, and found difficulty in timing his pass, he frequently created a vital gap in an opposing defence. His defensive work was, on the whole, sound. P. B. Heppleston, having cured an inclination to trot, was a fast, incisive runner with a good rugby sense; he also sold a convincing dummy. He scored nine tries during the season, and coupled his attacking power with a defence which improved after a shaky start.

The two wing three-quarters, R. C. Jones and R. J. Parnell, made good use of their centres' work. Parnell was a very fast runner who compensated for his lack of guile by his abundance of speed. By the end of the season he had become a very determined runner although his defence was extremely weak. R. C. Jones was a slower but more elusive runner who linked-up well with his full-back. His defence was very sound and most valuable; his one fault was a tendency to look insufficiently for the inside pass. This season we used the full back very much as an extra three-quarter on the end of the line. J. M. Webb was eminently suited for this task and he put his fast sinuous run to good account, scoring nine tries. His tackling improved during the season, although his falling was still shaky. He was the place-kicker of the side, his kick was of an exceptionally high

standard, especially in the earlier part of the season.

H. E. Gough was captain and stand-off half. He is a thoughtful player who is quick to see and exploit a chance. He was the only one of his team who developed a really determined thirst for tries which frequently carried him to the opponents' line when the others of his side were becoming depressed. His covering, both in attack and defence, was exemplary.

Much of the success of the season was due to his untiring efforts as captain. While he might have spurred greater efforts from individuals were he not so reticent under match conditions, his authority on the field was always felt—in a kindly way. In the practices, he schemed and drilled his team without sparing himself; this at a time when he was under considerable pressure academically. It was through his own infectious enthusiasm that he led; this created the good will without which he could not have achieved so much.

Results: 1st XV.

v. Kingham Hall; won. 29pts. (4 goals, 3 tries)—0

This was a good start to the season, although our handling was very bad. Gough opened the scoring with a converted try, and Heppleston (2) and Webb soon followed with tries, the latter of which was converted, to make the half-time score 16-0. The second half tries came from Webb, Heppleston and Parnell; the latter two were converted to make the score 29-0.

v. Dean Close 2nd XV; won. 63pts. (12 goals, 1 try)—0.

For this match Richardson was moved from No. 8 to prop, and Sewell played at No. 8. The forwards did well in the lineout, and dominated the loose and tight. Thus the threequarters were given the chance to open up the game; this was facilitated by the weak tackling of our opponents. Sewell opened the scoring, and other tries quickly followed from Gough, Webb (2), Parnell and Jones; all these were converted to make the half-time score 30-0. Rendcomb kept up the pressure well after half-time and the game became rather one-sided. Of tries from Heppleston (2), Gough, Parnell, Stillwell, and Marshall, all but one were converted, to make the final score 63-0. Seven of the tries came from complete three-quarter movements.

v. Bristol Grammar School 3rd XV; lost. 10pts (2 goals)—12pts. (2 tries, 2 penalty goals).

This was a disappointing display for a new fixture; the team never settled down properly to combat the straight forward

energetic game of our opponents. Wood, who was injured, had been replaced by Stimson, who obtained little possession. Bristol opened the scoring with a try and a penalty goal. Just before half-time Marshall, following up a break by Webb, touched down for a try, which was converted. After half-time we conceded another try and a penalty goal; a few minutes before the end Gough went over for another converted try, to make the score 10-12.

v. Belmont Abbey School; lost. 13pts. (2 goals, 1 drop goal)—19 (2 goals, 2 tries, 1 penalty).

This was another new fixture, and perhaps the most enjoyable game of the season. The team put up a creditable display considering that we were playing with two reserves and that we also played for most of the game with 14 fit players, Stillwell being injured. Rendcomb were on top for the first half and by the interval were 8-5 in the lead; Jones scored a converted try and Gough dropped a goal. After the interval Heppleston added another converted try; but then, due to weak tackling on the left flank, Belmont scored three quick tries. The team fought back well, although possession was scare; but just before the end conceded a penalty goal, to make the score 19-13.

v. Marling School; won. 19pts. (2 goals, 2 tries, 1 penalty goal) —14(1 goal, 2 tries, 1 penalty).

This was an even and well-played game, the forwards fought well, although the backs disappointed. Rendcomb went ahead with a penalty goal, followed by two tries from Gough and Marshall—the second try was converted; the visitors scored with a penalty goal. After half-time Marling scored two quick tries, but Rendcomb replied with two well-taken tries from Parnell and Marshall and although the visitors scored again and pressed hard, the final result was a win by 19pts. -14pts.

v. Cheltenham College 3rd XV; won. 53pts. (7 goals, 6 tries) —3 (1 try).

This game was fought fairly evenly in the forwards, but, as our pack gained most of the possession, the backs, who were in top form, were able to show the disparity between the two teams. Good runs from Heppleston, Marshall, Webb and Stillwell, and opportunism from Pettigrew and Lowe brought our first-half tries; five of these were converted to make the score 34-0. In the second half the pace slackened and only five more tries were added, by Webb (2), Heppleston, Parnell and Gough: two were converted. The visitors replied with a try beneath the posts.

v. Marlborough College 3rd XV; won. 34pts. (5 goals, 3 tries) —3pts. (1 penalty goal).

In this game the whole side hit their best form of the season: the forwards fought continually for the ball, and the backs ran fast and thoughtfully. First half tries came from Gough, Jones and Parnell (2)—for one of which he had to run 50 yards to touch down; two were converted. Marlborough scored from a penalty. In the second half the team kept the play open and tries came from Webb, Lowe, G. Bartlett and Gough; three were converted to make the final tally 34pts. -3. The score was very satisfying under the wet conditions; Mitchison, who deputized for Pettigrew, gave a very creditable performance.

The 1st XV owes a great deal of its success to the practice which it gained from playing against its 2nd XV. To their credit, although often required to act as “stooges” to the 1st XV, the 2nd XV rarely became dispirited. Many of them put much conscientious effort into their game.

K. A. Walker did a very valuable job as captain of this side; his play at inside centre improved during the season, and despite a tendency to cut in, was most valuable to his side. M. A. Gooding, at fly half, had a very successful season also, and gave his backs a good start. Other notable performers among the backs were: J. Mitchison, who put in sterling performances in an alien position, D. J. Tovey, a determined runner, D. J. Thomasson, a sound tackler, and M. C. Jones, who possessed a damaging run. D. A. Hogarth contributed an invaluable service as a last-ditch defence at full back.

However, it was the pack which was the strong component of the 2nd XV. T. C. Bass, who ultimately led the pack, was a tireless worker, as was S. Greenlaw. T. Tucker was very quick on the loose ball. R. P. S. Harrison, after one game with the 1st XV, became a valuable No. 8, and J. A. T. Goodborn dominated the lineouts. R. J. Hayes became the side's place-kicker, and gained a place at wing forward. The side was also fortunate to possess R. S. Lowe before he played for the 1st XV,

Results: 2nd XV.

v. Kingham Hill 2nd XV; won. 29pts. —3pts. v. Dean Close Senior Colts; lost. Opts. —20pts. v. King's School, Gloucester; won. 19pts. —3pts. v. Belmont Abbey School 2nd XV; lost. 6pts. —9pts. v. Kingham Hill 1st XV; lost. Opts. —30pts.

Junior XV

As a result of the general apathy in Second Game the Junior XV was very weak; this weakness caused the regrettable, but necessary cancellation of three of its fixtures. Much time and care was spent in coaching the game in the basic essentials, but the deficiency was not one of technical ability, but one of enthusiasm and spirit.

J. Schwarzmantel was captain and pack-leader, and was one of the few to put real energy into his game; A. J. Cattermole was another, and he played well for the 2nd XV on several occasions. R. P. Dale, towards the end of the season, showed signs of promise at wing-forward. The halves showed real promise: Hole, albeit small, was a most courageous and capable scrum-half, while N. C. Creffield is a fly half of enormous potential and a good future prospect. His inside centre, P. A. Trier, was a strong runner, but looked insufficiently for the pass.

Those who played: S. H. Shellswell, A. E. Pocock,
B. R. Ferguson, P. A. Trier, N. S. Whatmough, N. C. Creffield,
R. W. Hole, J. L. Schawarzmantel (capt.), A. A. J. Raddon,
R. Verge, P. L. Hughes, A. J. Cattermole, G. C. Cattermole,
R. P. Dale, R. A. Sewell, L. A. Webb.

Results:

- v. Cheltenham College Matched XV; draw. 0—0.
- v. Marlborough College Junior House; lost. 0—51.

Third Game

Third Game flourished this year, and provided many useful young recruits for Second Game including W. T. G. Griffiths, B. R. Pullen and R. W. Hole. The most promising players in the game were A. Pain, M. Harrop and M. J. Dawson.

GREENMEADOW RACE

In the Easter Term of 1961 the acting Headmaster advised the General Meeting that the "Lodges Race" was becoming increasingly unsafe as the volume of traffic on the main road increased. This reason, coupled with the fact that the Cirencester Drive would soon pass to another owner, prompted the Meeting to investigate another course. A committee, in conjunction with the P. E. Master, delineated the following course: Starting by the Secretary's Office the runners progress up the Back Drive, and follow the Village Road until they arrive at the Kennel Bottom Drive just beyond the telephone kiosk. Following this

drive they run down the valley, past the staff house, and up the other side. On meeting the Whiteway they turn sharp left, pass the Greenmeadow Farm buildings and continue down to the Pumping Station. Having passed through this, they follow the path which goes up behind the village gardens until it rejoins the Kennel Bottom Drive. From there they return to the finishing line at the bottom of the Back Drive by means of the Village road.

The race which should have been held last Easter Term, was held this term, and there was a surprising number of participants, especially in the Senior Race. The winners' times count as new records.

Senior Race. —First: D. A. N. Hogarth, 15mins. 25½secs. Second: G. S. Bartlett, 15mins. 36secs. Third: R. A. D. Laws, 15mins. 36½secs. Fourth: N. R. Meakin, 15mins. 40secs.

Junior Race. —First: G. F. Smith, 17mins. 11secs. Second: G. C. Cattermole, 17mins. 27secs. Third: P. Little, 17mins. 32secs. Fourth: R. Thompson, 18mins. 52secs.

OLD BOYS' NOTES

We regret that the initials of M. G. Richards, who obtained First Class in the Honours School of Physics at Oxford, were incorrectly given in the last issue of the *Rendcomb College Chronicle*.

The West Country Dinner for Members of the Old Rendcombian Society and their ladies was held at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, on 21st October. C. J. Brisley was in the chair and the Secretary, R. H. Jones, organised this dinner and the London dinner with efficiency and smoothness. Both extended a warm welcome to the new Headmaster and his wife. The Headmaster thanked the Society for its welcome and said how grateful he was to Mr. and Mrs. James for all the help that they had given him.

The following attended: Mr. and Mrs. Quick, Mr. and Mrs. James, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Brain, Mr. and Mrs. J. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Eyles, Mr. and Mrs. Smallwood, Mr. and Mrs. Luffman, Mr. and Mrs. R. Smith, J. Batten, N. Slade, P. Dyke, R. H. Jones, C. J. Brisley, A. C. Lucker, J. G. A. Dainty, A. Moyn, D. Godfrey.

There was a good gathering of Old Rendcombians at the Balcon Grill on Saturday, 25th November, for the Annual General Meeting and the London dinner. Under the chairmanship of

M. V. Bedwell the meeting displayed great energy. Officers were elected and Dr. Dakin, after welcoming the Headmaster, gave an account of the Simpson Memorial Fund. Later on there was much discussion of the exact aims that the Old Rendcombian Society should pursue. In fact the meeting was so lively that it strayed into the time that had been set aside for eating. There was an excellent dinner in the comfortable but informal atmosphere. The Chairman welcomed the new Headmaster and the Headmaster gave some account of his initial impressions of Rendcomb. He thanked Mr. and Mrs. James for the great help they had given him on arrival and Mr. James for one or two important reforms that had been introduced during his Acting Headmastership.

C. J. Brisley	M. C. Thompson	M. J. Bedwell
R. H. Jones	J. F. Alder	R. T. Wood
R. M. Sumsion	W. S. Boardman	E. J. Miller
D. A. Godfrey	A. R. Tenty	A. E. Shield
D. Dakin	K. A. Statham	F. C. Raggatt
C. Osborne	A. C. Magor	G. E. Page
N. A. Perkins	R. G. Betterton	A. G. G. Richards
M. R. Horton	F. S. G. Richards	C. C. V. Taylor
L. B. White	J. H. Muirhead	N. C. Stone
F. Nevel		
M. Gleeson-White		

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

March 1962

Changes during recent years

Plant and animal communities are never static. In any district new species may arrive or old-established ones may die out, but the most usual changes are fluctuations in abundance. These are going on all the time, but are seldom noticed unless there are drastic alterations in numbers.

Population dynamics is a complex subject, but it may be said in general terms that numerical status is determined by two sets of factors. On the one hand there is the reproductive

capacity of the species—its ability to multiply—and those habitat factors which favour survival; on the other hand are the destructive effects of predation and parasitism (including epidemic disease) and such changes in environmental conditions as reduce the suitability of habitats.

Numerous illustrations of the foregoing effects have been observed in the Rendcomb district over the past fifteen years or more.

The present generation of pupils at the College is familiar with the Grey Squirrel, a common mammal which was introduced to Britain from America many years ago. This was a new arrival to the vicinity of Rendcomb in the early 1930's. Our native Red Squirrel was common round here to about 1934, then declined rapidly and has not been reported near Rendcomb for twenty years or more (see Vol. 10, No. 8, p. 20). We are still unsure whether the Grey Squirrel drove out the Red by competition or whether some disease decimated the native population about that time.

In the case of the Rabbit, however, the effects of an epidemic virus disease (myxomatosis) are well known and Rendcomb suffered its impact in 1954, with the result that a once abundant mammal became an uncommon one.

The virtual disappearance of rabbits has had far-reaching effects even in our small district. The immediate and more obvious results were seen in the vegetation, notably on downland slopes. Plants such as Cowslip and various orchids, which were previously heavily grazed, flowered in unwonted profusion for a few years. But in many places this was not to last, because their habitats become progressively invaded by the coarse grasses which tend to flourish on oolitic limestone downs—notably *Brachypodium pinnatum* and *Bromns erectus*.

These same grasses have also practically eliminated wild thyme from part of our last remaining local haunt of the very rare Large Blue Butterfly. Thyme flowers associated with ants' nests are an essential in the life history of this insect and grazing by rabbits used to be important in keeping down the competitive grasses.

The indirect results of myxomatosis were less conspicuous on the populations of wild animals, but stoats have undoubtedly become very much scarcer than they were. Buzzards also seemed to suffer considerably at first, but there are now signs

that the species is adjusting itself fairly satisfactorily to the loss of a staple item of diet.

In a country like Britain with a dense human population, Man is always of major importance in influencing, directly or indirectly, the abundance of both animal and plant species. Almost none of Britain is in a “natural” state and the Rendcomb area is no exception.

Ploughing and afforestation at Chatcombe destroyed the habitat where, in 1953, the Wasp Orchid (*Ophrys apifera* var. *trollii*) was found and where Bee Orchids were abundant. One of our only two known local haunts of the Large Blue Butterfly was ploughed up some twelve years ago; a large part of the second (see above) was similarly more recently made totally unsuitable for the butterflies. A small part of this area is still apparently in good condition, but no Large Blues could be found there in 1961.

A conspicuous effect of man’s “interference” with normal events has been the recent clearing of Conigre and The Slippery Path Woods near the College. The effects of this will be profound and attempts to record the changes in flora and fauna have already been initiated. Of special interest, perhaps, is the fate of the Conigre Badgers, much-studied and often photographed. These deserted the wood during felling operations, but one pair has subsequently returned to set B. The clearance of the Wilderness a few years ago has encouraged the growth of a dense tangle of mixed vegetation, one result of which has been to eliminate the Martagon Lily from its only known local site.

Two other matters, much nearer home, have also affected our local natural history. Recent changes in the heating system at the College have rendered the cellars in general, and “Little Hell” in particular, unsuitable for the roosting of bats; and the construction of the new swimming pool has destroyed the cavity on the terraces in which the Spanish Cave Spider (*Meta bourneti*) was originally found in its second known British station. Fortunately a few are still to be seen in another spot nearby.

In many ways the foregoing is a sorry tale of diminution and loss, but there are also a few matters on the credit side. The Lapwing appears to be increasing again on the Cotswolds after a long period of decline. Although Sparrowhawks and Stockdoves have decreased, possibly as a result of eating poisoned

food, we seem to be keeping our local Barn Owls. Hares, if anything, have increased in recent years, and the little Muntjac deer, which has already reached Gloucestershire, is very likely to become established in Withington Woods if, indeed, it has not already done so. Similarly, the Collared Dove, a recent addition to the British fauna, has been noted in Gloucester and near Chipping Sodbury and is likely to spread in the future.

This account, nevertheless, serves to emphasise the fact that human activity does tend to eliminate certain interesting species of plants and animals, and conservation is much needed.

C. M. Swaine.