

RENDCOMB COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Vol. 8 No. 13

December, 1948

Rendcomb College Magazine

Vol. 8, No. 13.

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SCHOOL NOTES. Summer Term, 1948.

Term began on Wednesday, April 28th.

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Commemoration Day was on Friday, June 4th.

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Parents' Day was on Saturday, June 19th.

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The cricket match against the Old Boys was played on Saturday, July 17th.

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Term ended on Tuesday, July 27th.

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A number of excursions were made during the term. The Sixth Form went to Stratford to see "Hamlet." A party went to the British Industries Fair in Birmingham. Form V went to see the Australians in Bristol. Form III visited Oxford and, on another occasion, Cirencester Museum. A few boys were able to go to one of the Festival Concerts in Cheltenham. A large party went to see the film "Gone with the Wind," and numerous small parties visited Cirencester Swimming Bath. Reports of some of these excursions appear elsewhere.

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The following lectures were given during the term:

"Life Saving," by Captain J. D. Daintree.

"Conditions in the British Zone of Germany," by Mr. C. P. Hill. "Is America part of the World?" by Professor Newell.

Lecture Recital by Carl Dolmetsch and Joseph Saxby.

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The Bishop of Gloucester preached in Rendcomb Church on Sunday, May 9th.

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The North Cerney Race was held on Wednesday, June 16th.

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There have been more staff changes this year. Miss E. M. Young left us at the end of term to join the staff of Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham. Mr. D. P. Tidy left to take up his studies at Oxford. Miss M. Organ, who was here temporarily, also left at the end of term. Our good wishes go with them all.

We welcome Mr. L. W. H. Hull, formerly Senior Mathematics Master at Framlingham College, and Mr. J. Tooze, who has taken over the music.

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Our good wishes go with the following boys who left at the end of the Summer Term: G. H. Bye, D. J. Payne, C. M. Carus-Wilson, E. A. Jones, T. R. Morris, T. P. Denehy, B. G. H. Levers, E. F. P. Topps.

We welcome the following new boys who entered the College at the beginning of the Autumn Term: M. Boase, M. J. Edwards, P. Rose, J. Bolus, C. J. Beeby, T. Gay, J. Gough, D. J. B. Forster, O. S. David, J. R. Ellis, D. A. Godfrey, A. Harrison, R. J. Lawson, A. C. Lucker, K. E. Payne, T. W. Rowley, I. M. Sinclair, P. Swaite.

The following obtained the Cambridge Higher School Certificate at the July examination: —

T. P. Denehy, E. A. Jones, R. J. Kendal, C. B. Lane, P. W. Sumsion, G. H. Bye, T. R. Morris, T. T. Walters, J. C. Waterton. T. P. Denehy obtained a Distinction in English.

E. A. Jones obtained a Distinction in History.

J. C. Waterton obtained Distinctions in Mathematics and Zoology, and has been awarded a State Scholarship.

T. P. Denehy was placed on the State Scholarship Reserve List.

The following obtained the London General School Certificate at the July Examination:

M. W. Brain, P. G. Cockell, E. Davis, R. Gready, P. H. S. Harris, J. A. Johnson, B. G. H. Levers, M. J. Miles, J. D. Painter, B. Plenderleith, P. J. Ryman, J. H. Shield, E. F. P. Topps.

J. D. Painter and P. J. Ryman obtained Matriculation exemption.

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We are most grateful for a very welcome gift of timber for the workshop from Lord Dulverton. This holly and yew came from Batsford Park, was brought to Cirencester for conversion, and is now seasoning at Rendcomb.

COLLEGE OFFICERS,

Autumn Term, 1948.

Senior Prefect—P. W. Sumsion.

Duty Group Leaders—P. W. Sumsion, T. T. Walters, M. J. Morgan.

Other Prefect—C. Baillie Lane.

Work Man—D. Henshaw.

Music Warden—P. D. Quick.

Librarians—P. D. Quick, R. J. Kendal, D. Henshaw.

Manual Foremen—R. Gready, B. Plenderleith, J. R. S. Powell, J. R. Smith.

Picture Man—D. Henshaw.

Stagemen—T. T. Walters, P. J. Ryman, P. G. Cockell, B. Plenderleith, A. J. Paish, C. D. Whittle.

Deck Chairs—J. A. Johnson.

Lamp Men—M. W. Brain, R. Gready.

MEETING OFFICERS.

Autumn Term, 1948.

Chairman—P. W. Sumsion.

Secretary—R. J. Kendal.

Games Captain—P. H. S. Harris.

Field Secretary—E. Davis.

Games Committee—C. B. Lane, P. W. Sumsion.

House Committee Treasurer—C. J. Brisley.

Furniture Committee—T. T. Walters, P. W. Dutton, A. J. Paish.

Banker—J. H. Shield.

Apprentice Banker—K. A. Statham.

Finance Committee Treasurer—P. W. Dutton.

Finance Committee—P. M. Gerrard, J. K. Comrie.

Auditors—C. J. Brisley, J. A. Johnson.

Apprentice Auditors—M. D. Rayner, P. M. Gerrard.

Poundman—D. G. Vaisey.

Games Committee Treasurer—R. J. Kendal.
Senior Shopman—P. J. Ryman.
Shopmen—P. G. Cockell, J. A. Johnson.
Entertainments Committee—R. K. G. Bick, M. J. Miles,
J. W. J. Reed, M. D. Richards, R. M. Sumsion.
End of Term Entertainments Committee—P. W. Sumsion, J. C.
Waterton, T. T. Walters, E. Davis, P. G. Cockell, C. B. Lane.
Council—M. J. Morgan, J. C. Waterton, T. T. Walters, C. B. Lane,
P. W. Sumsion, R. J. Kendal, J. H. Shield.
Selection Committee—M. J. Morgan, C. B. Lane, T. T. Walters,
P. W. Sumsion, D. Henshaw, R. W. Smith.
Record Committee—M. W. Brain, J. Gilchrist, M. J. Morgan,
P. D. Quick, G. J. Chagrin.
Cycle Committee—J. Kitto, M. G. Petter, J. R. Smith.
Amplifier Technicians—P. J. Ryman, J. A. Johnson.
Apprentice Amplifier Technician—P. M. Gerrard.
Paperman—S. P. Steed.
Breakages Man—M. J. Miles.
Almoner—G. J. Chagrin.
Inspector of Nuisances—D. C. de Peyer, J. M. Harrison.
Indoor Games Wardens—P. W. Sumsion, R. N. Home.
Tennis Groundsman—J. Kitto.
Tennis Games Warden—R. W. Smith.
Cricket Groundsman—R. J. Powell.
Cricket Games Warden—P. L. Waite.
Cricket Secretary—M. W. Brain.
Hockey Games Warden—B. Plenderleith.
Hockey Secretary—J. C. Waterton.
Football Games Wardens—R. J. Powell, R. Gready.
Football Secretary—R. K. G. Bick.
Magazine Committee—P. D. Quick, J. D. Painter, J. Gilchrist.
Drying Room Committee—L. V. Crawford, J. W. J. Reed, J. Kitto.
Public Workman—R. W. Smith.
Football Groundsman—L. V. Crawford.
Junior Football Groundsman—J. R. Smith.

PARENTS' DAY.

The saying that "it never rains on Parents' Day" was disproved this year, but fortunately the rain did not interfere much with the afternoon's activities. The meeting of parents was held as usual in Big School at 3 p. m. and the chair was taken by Lt. -Col. Sir Russell J. Kerr, D. L., J. P., Vice-Chairman of the Governors. A good gym display was given on the back lawn by a group of seniors, after which tea was served in the gym. Puppet shows were given to two crowded houses and an exhibition of woodwork was also to be seen. A large number of parents were present and our congratulations go to all those who helped to make this occasion a happy one.

OLD BOYS' NEWS.

G. H. W. Bodman, who during the War was a Sergeant Instructor in the Royal Engineers, is now an Apprentice with the Thrissell Engineering Co. in Bristol. It was a great pleasure to see him and his father when they came up in June.

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R. T. Lindsay, having completed his service in the R. A. F., has joined his father as a Pharmaceutical Chemist.

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J. R. C. Baillie is doing Photography.

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K. E. Banks is a Sergeant Instructor in the Army Physical Training Corps. He is at present instructing at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

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J. F. Alder has been awarded a Grant by the British Iron and Steel Research Association for work in the Cavendish Physical Laboratory at Cambridge.

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C. D. M. Barnett is with Messrs. J. A. Bloss & Co., Auctioneers and Valuers, Bourton-on-the-Water.

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We hear that E. J. Powell has been reading Mechanical Engineering at London University.

We congratulate N. A. Perkins on tying with W. A. Fairhurst for first place in the 1948 Scottish Chess Championships.

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W. Y. Willetts has been awarded a Treasury Studentship at New College, Oxford, to study Chinese Archaeology. The Grant may be held for a period of up to six years.

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Peter Jackson was married on June 5th, 1948.

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C. E. Hartland, A. A. Dip., A. R. I. B. A., is at present an Architect for the National Coal Board.

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The following were present on Old Boys' Day on the 17th July, 1948: —G. H. W. Bodman, F. J. Batten, R. G. Betterton, P. Binks, M. A. Bullen, R. F. Butler, P. J. Dyke, J. Eyles, P. L. Field, P. Baillie-Lane, A. C. Magor, J. E. Miller, D. Montgomery, N. A. Perkins, J. H. Quick, C. J. N. Richardson, M. C. B. Russell, N. Slade, J. W. Sumsion, A. R. Tenty, C. E. H. Tuck, E. Webster, R. T. Wood.

The following stayed the night: —R. G. Betterton, P. Binks, N. A. Perkins, J. H. Quick, C. J. N. Richardson.

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The following also visited the College during the term: — C. G. V. Taylor, F. D. Humphris, R. M. Lewis, M. B. Shephard, S. H. Groves, G. H. W. Bodman, M. C. Thompson, D. R. Page, R. T. Wood, J. W. Sumsion, J. Henshaw, M. Butlin, D. H. Hill, R. Brain, G. W. Ivens.

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The following Honours were obtained by O. R.'s at the Cambridge June Examinations: —

P. H. Tuft—Ph. D.

D. M. Grant—Second Class Natural Science Tripos, Part II.

J. P. Alder—Second Class Mechanical Science Tripos Part II.

S. J. Currie—Second Class Natural Science Tripos Part I.

B. W. Plenderleith—Second Class Mechanical Science Tripos Part I.

LECTURES.

On Sunday, May 16th, at 6. 15 p. m., Mr. C. P. Hill, Senior History Master at Bristol Grammar School, talked to the VIth form on "Conditions in the British Zone of Germany," being a series of impressions gained on a recent three-weeks visit, when he was one of a history team engaged in lecturing to German teachers. The first week was spent at Düsseldorf, and the second at Schleswig- Holstein, in a Hohenzollern castle set amidst beautiful country, the remaining time being spent in travel. Besides teachers, the only classes of people with whom he came into contact were car-drivers and waiters, and he warned us that his impressions of German people were probably very limited. He found the Germans civil towards the British, partly through natural kindness as individuals, partly because the British are in control. Their attitude to Hitler was summed up by the driver, who, removing his hands from the wheel in a manner nightmarish to British passengers, shrugged his shoulders and said, "Hitler? He was a fraud!"

The two topics of conversation in Germany are food and the Russians. Food is inferior in quantity and quality. Mr. Hill described an official luncheon at Aachen, which consisted of as many bowls of disgusting soup as one could stomach, and one glass of bad beer. The Germans supplement their meagre rations through the thriving Black Market and the barter system. Many factory employees are paid in kind, but school teachers are bitter because they have nothing to barter. The great medium of exchange is the British cigarette, which is passed from hand to hand, and, eventually, smoked.

A moral decline as great as material damage was shown in the Ruhr by the apathy towards rebuilding, and by the pathetic interest with which the Germans listened to an extensive lecture in Aachen on Charlemagne's remains. Rebuilding has also been hampered by lack of men and materials, and physical strength, for most work is done by men and not machines. There is a rather fatalistic acceptance of British rule, but much criticism of British feeding of the Germans. Arguments based on the fate of England if Hitler had won are not convincing to the Germans.

The Russians seem able to feed the Germans in their zone better than the British can, but there were a large number of refugees from the east in Schleswig-Holstein. Egress from Russian to British zones is easier for Germans than for British—probably so that Germans from the Russian zone can easily cross the border and tell British Zone Germans how much better fed they are. Mr. Hill paid a visit to the border of the Russian zone, south-east of Kiel, and was rather disappointed by the solitary shack housing an elderly German frontier guard which commanded the country road

on the British side of "No Man's Land." He was informed that the Russians however, had a block of houses, manned by twenty-five soldiers armed with tommy-guns and searchlights. Opera singers especially are attracted to the Russian zone by the offer of double rations, but there was still a flourishing opera in places like Düsseldorf, where the opera-house had been rebuilt by the Americans in six weeks!

It was altogether an interesting and amusing talk, and Mr. Hill had obviously been at pains to make a scientific collection of facts and to present a true picture of Germany to-day. Perhaps it was the inevitably limited nature of his impressions and the amount of time at his disposal that made his talk appear rather slight and unsubstantial. (Mr. Hill was ill and running a temperature at the time of his talk. —Editor). It was, however, an interesting experience to hear an actual eye-witness account of conditions in contemporary Germany.

On Friday, May 28th, at 5. 30 p. m., Professor Newell gave a talk to Forms IV, V and VI, on the subject "Is America part of the World?"

Professor Newell, who has travelled a great deal in Europe, the Middle East and America, and who is the John Winant Lecturer on British-American Affairs, talked mainly about Anglo-American relations. He started by telling us that he himself was an American and that the difficulties caused by having a language common to both his country and ours were considerable: "Britain and America stand divided by a common language," he stated.

He traced America's recent history and development; America did not realise her responsibilities in 1918, either political or economic, and she withdrew into herself, building up insurmountable tariff walls which resulted in the Wall Street Crash of 1929. It was not until the recent war that most Americans realised their responsibility in world affairs—"Not even rich America can prosper alone." A partnership was made between Britain and America during the war: a partnership in peacetime is more difficult but it must be built up to work towards the reconstruction of Europe. The Marshall Plan, which is part of this partnership, is not a charity organisation: America is doing for Britain what Britain did for America a hundred years ago, when the colonists began to discover the possibilities of the immense "middle-west."

This partnership must not be one of "big business" or of party politics, but must be a partnership of individuals. We must put aside the petty annoyances which are inevitable and go ahead with the important issues of our time. We must build up what Stephen Leacock describes as "the first area of sane solidarity."

Professor Newell's talk was lively, interesting, and full of hope for the future and this opportunity of hearing him was much appreciated.

On Wednesday, July 21st, Captain J. D. Daintree gave a lecture on Life Saving in Big School. Captain Daintree explained the method of artificial respiration founded by Professor Schafer. Three cases were accounted for: the discovery of a body at sea, on a beach, and on a canal or river bank. Practical hints such as hauling a body on board a boat at the stern to prevent its overturning were useful to know.

Captain Daintree demonstrated the Schafer method of artificial respiration with the help of a "victim" who, although unconscious, made periodic replies to questions from the lecturer! Captain Daintree was very careful to point out the way in which onlookers should be sent for help and said that a Doctor was not necessary until hot water bottles, blankets, coffee and an oxygen sparklet had been obtained. The importance of continuing with artificial respiration for at least eight hours was stressed and the lecturer also demonstrated how a patient should be rolled on his side when breathing has re-commenced. The necessity for not moving the patient was emphasised.

Captain Daintree described the Rocking method of artificial respiration adopted by the Navy which entails a stretcher and several helpers. Before describing methods of rescue Captain Daintree gave practical warnings, the neglect of which causes numerous household accidents; amongst these were the avoidance of contact with electrical appliances when in a bath, rolling on the floor when clothes are on fire, and keeping one's legs above the seats if any warning of a railway accident is given.

The Breeches-buoy method of sea-rescue was illustrated with miniature ropes and tackle and Captain Daintree showed how the breeches buoy was made fast to a ship. Practical hints on lifesaving were then demonstrated; these dealt mainly with the approach to a drowning person.

On Thursday morning in the gym a group of thirty boys went through the Schafer method of artificial respiration and were watched by the rest of the school. Captain Daintree commented on the competence of the answers to his questions. We are very grateful to him for this most useful lecture and wish him happiness in his retirement in the near future.

DOLMETSCH RECITAL.

It was a very great pleasure to welcome Carl Dolmetsch and Joseph Saxby for their lecture-recital on Tuesday, June 1st. This was the first music recital given by visiting performers for a number of years and for many of the school it was an admirable introduction to the music and instruments of the seventeenth century. We were all charmed by the presentation of a programme which was carefully chosen to demonstrate most of the instruments of the period and by the sensitive playing of both the artists. We all enjoyed too the informal atmosphere with which the evening closed when we were able to examine the instruments more closely and ask questions.

The growth of the "Dolmetsch Tradition" was briefly described to us and a short account was given of the work of Arnold Dolmetsch, its founder, whose patient researches in the field of old music, coupled with fine craftsmanship, made it possible for us to hear "the authentic interpretation of early music, played on the instruments for which it was written." Mr. Carl Dolmetsch, Arnold's youngest son, who now directs work at Haslemere, made us feel that the old music was not approached in an antiquarian spirit, but really lived as a thing of beauty, transcending considerations of age.

The work of Arnold Dolmetsch was two-fold. In the first place he had to secure the old instruments themselves. Finding it impossible to rely upon others to obtain what he wanted by restoring old viols, he opened his first workshop and, using at first actual old instruments as his models, made for himself all the instruments he required. The idea that a musician should also be a capable craftsman had long disappeared and in its revival Arnold Dolmetsch won the lively interest of William Morris.

Secondly, he set out to discover for himself how early music was actually played. This necessitated not merely a thorough study of the authentic technique of playing the old instruments, but also a penetrating research into all the finer points of musical interpretation. His work in this field is summed up in his book, "The Interpretation of the Music of the XVII and XVIII centuries," which reveals his thorough scholarship.

The programme of music we heard was a varied one and we were impressed by Mr. Dolmetsch's versatility, for he seemed equally at home with the treble viol, the violin, the lute and the recorder. It is as a recorder player however that he is chiefly known, and he played to us works for all members of the recorder family. Mr. Saxby's harpsichord playing was much admired and we were interested in the improvised adornments which he introduced after the tradition of the period.

The programme was as follows: —

1. Descant Recorder and Harpsichord.
“Divisions on Greensleeves.” Anon. English 17th cent.
2. Pieces to demonstrate Recorder Family.
 - (i) “Nobody’s Jig” (Sopranino). Anon. Elizabethan.
 - (ii) Allegro in A minor (Treble). Handel (1685-1759).
 - (iii) “Heartsease” (Tenor). Anon. Elizabethan.
 - (iv) “Lord Zouche’s Masque” (Bass). Anon. Elizabethan.
3. Modern Recorder Music.
Variation on “Beata Nobis Gaudia” from Sonata in E flat. Martin Shaw.
4. Harpsichord Solos.
 - (i) Rondeau. J. F. d'Andrieu (c. 1705).
 - (ii) “Les Coucons Benevoles.” F. Couperin (1668-1733).
 - (iii) “The falle of the Leafe.” Martin Peerson (1580-1651).
5. Treble Viol and Harpsichord.
Sarabande and Two Minuets. De Caix d’Hervelois (1736).
6. Violin and Harpsichord.
The Spanish “Folias.” Caspar Sanz (c. 1670).
7. Early French Tunes—Rebec with Tambourin.
 - (i) Triory de Bretagne.
 - (i) Bransle Montarde.
8. Recorder and Harpsichord.
Allemande and Gigue. Lully (1632-1687).

EXPEDITIONS.

1. A Visit to the British Industries Fair.

For the second year in succession, a party from Rendcomb was able to visit the Birmingham Section of the British Industries Fair at Castle Bromwich. The expedition was made by more than thirty boys, accompanied by Mr. Fell and Mr. Graty, on Monday, 10th May.

The coach left the Forecourt at 12:30 p. m. and the journey, enlivened by the spectacle of three horses being rounded up by a lorry after an exciting gallop down a hill near Stow, was completed by 3 o’clock. After all had received parting instructions about the return journey, and the last of the thirty-six “clicks-clicks” of the

turnstile had sounded, the party broke up into twos and threes to go their separate ways. Obviously, in such a vast building, containing over twelve miles of gangways, it was impossible to see and understand everything in three hours, but a description of a few of the many thousands of attractions will be attempted. One aspect of the Fair which was, however, noted by all, was the heat in the building: even the sight of refrigerators, fountains, and frozen fish did little to cool us down.

The Fair was divided into four sections: electrical, engineering, building, and hardware. This last named section was notable for the innumerable lawn mowers which it displayed. Enough sparking kettles, saucepans and kitchen utensils of all shapes and sizes to fill hundreds of Britain's kitchens, made an attractive scene, while a working demonstration of an electric washing machine and mangle was being critically examined by a small crowd of housewives.

A few bicycles were on view; a lightweight club machine contrasted with a solidly built Co-operative Society roadster with a double crossbar, but otherwise the models were not very impressive. There was a beautiful model of the Tower Bridge on the Port of London Authority stand, and a film showing the London docks at work could be seen (and heard) on a very small screen above the pedestrian crossing, far above water level. In size the exhibits ranged from a huge 55 ton crankshaft, later to be installed in a merchant ship, to minute electrical components. Also to be seen in the electrical section were dazzling fluorescent lighting systems, different types of street lighting, and displays by well-known light bulb firms. Many conveyer systems and belts were to be found in this interesting department of the Fair. A small wooden model locomotive, painted red, and inscribed with the letters "B. R." provided a little light relief.

The new gas turbine engine for cars was on view at the other end of the building, and although, owing to its novelty, it attracted considerable attention, it was not in appearance any more spectacular than other similar machines.

The outdoor exhibits were mainly represented by cranes, diesel road rollers outwardly resembling the good old steam roller, poultry houses and devices, and several boats built of "Birma-bright"; the public were allowed to inspect the interior of a twelve year-old lifeboat built largely of this metal.

By 6:15 p. m. we were on our way back, discussing what we had seen and had not seen, and choosing at will from the small library of pamphlets which energetic people had collected from the stands. We arrived at Rendcomb before 9 o'clock after an enjoyable day.

2. "Hamlet" at Stratford-on-Avon.

Two important incongruities—one unintentional and unavoidable, the other deliberate and questionable—did not prevent the Sixth Form's visit to "Hamlet" at the Stratford Memorial Theatre from being most successful, especially as this was the first major expedition to see a play since before the war. The first incongruity was the sudden attempt to step from glaring May sunshine into the world of Elsinore, where "'tis bitter cold" and "the air bites shrewdly." May 18th was one of the hottest days of the month and everyone sank into the coach with relief after a roasting P. W. —sawing in the park.

The performance started at 7. 30 and the second incongruity, now appeared. Michael Benthall, the producer, had decided on Victorian dress for his production, in contrast possibly with Sir Barry Jackson's striking and successful production of "Hamlet" in modern dress in 1925. There had been much discussion of this peculiar idea and we were all prepared. Nevertheless, the first court scene was decidedly startling and impressive, with the prim black-suited figure of Hamlet, immobile, except for his eyes, against the pillar. The main difficulty and objection was that a Victorian Hamlet—even a Hamlet so definitely Byronic as Paul Scofield—would never have been able to overcome his period's inhibitions sufficiently to commit an Elizabethan "revenge" murder, and, in the course of the action, murder Polonius, occasion Ophelia's madness and consequent suicide, send Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to their deaths, and kill Laertes in a duel. Although the Elizabethan Hamlet did only revenge his father's "most unnatural murder" in a fit of anger, this did not seem to alter the discrepancy between clothes and character.

The main justification for the dress was the tremendous advantage the beautiful and unexpected crinolines gave to the women. It is questionable, however, whether it was worth setting off the women to such advantage at the expense of the men. It also meant the introduction of military uniforms, reminding one of music hall Crimean warriors, and the effete "stove-pipes" of civilian courtiers, like Osric, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, each of whom played his "spongy," vacuous part with success. Claudius, with his air of pompous importance, suited his costume well; so also did Polonius, who now became a small, elderly but dapper Prime Minister or Secretary of State. Hamlet's "solemn suit of black" was so indistinctive and un-Victorian that it was, in contrast with the rich costumes of those around him, most effective. Even if the costumes did create misconceptions, they did also bring the minor characteristics strikingly to life. The only exception was Horatio, who seemed to shrink in one's estimate of him as a sober counterbalance to Hamlet's weakness and indecision and as a true friend.

The setting was ingenious—numerous “sets” fitted into a basic design of steps, leading into a hall of Gothic pillars and arches, with deep shadows. However, it seemed possibly that the Victorian Gothic, a relic of “the novel of terror,” overpowered the true terrors—physical and mental—of Elsinore, standing above

“the cliff

That beetles o’er his base into the sea.”

The ghost was disappointing. His entrances were terrifying, but these were spoilt by the wheezings and choking gasps. There was no sense of the Elizabethan ambiguity of his appearance. He was just a messenger from “the other world.” There was no question whether he was a devil, who had returned to cause mischief, or a spirit arisen from Purgatory for a special purpose. The removal of this question also removes the only reason for Hamlet’s delay in acting upon the ghost’s advice immediately.

In this way the production was over simplified: all the subtle Elizabethan shades of meaning, the trials of wit, disappeared. The producer firmly brought forward his own ideas and there was no attempt to allow the necessary doubts to creep into the audience’s mind. The most striking instances of this were seen in “the nunnery scene,” the removal of Hamlet’s reason for delay, the cutting of a dumb show prior to the Gonzago play, and the fact that Osric was definitely an accessory to the duel plot.

Gertrude, the Queen, played by Diana Wynyard, was not impressive. Her description of Ophelia’s death was effective and so was her speech at Ophelia’s burial. The gentleness of her words, “Sweets to the sweet, farewell, ” and her action, in throwing the small white flowers—a symbol for purity possibly—struck a pleasing contrast with the grim and severe faces of the other mourners. Possibly she was too overpowered by the strength and importance of the surrounding characters, but she never seemed to sound a true note or make a deep impression on one’s feelings.

Claudius was a perfect diplomat, easy mannered, suave and smooth-tongued, with complete control of his feelings. Yet somehow his “bloat” face seemed to belie this. The duality of his personality then became apparent: in the first half of the play there is no indication of his guilt and then for no reason he suddenly confesses the murder of his brother, Hamlet’s father, to the audience. This, of course, was Shakespeare’s plan or fault, and not the producer’s. His performance was best when he was most evil: The cunning, with which he won Laertes—a normal young undergraduate in striking contrast to Hamlet—to his side, in opposition to Hamlet, was unbelievably Machiavellian.

Ophelia's performance was distinguished throughout the play, especially when it is realised that Claire Bloom is only seventeen. In her mad scene she excelled herself. It was brilliant, terrifying, horrible, and almost too realistically embarrassing. The rest of the play was anti-climatic. This was especially so in "the grave-yard scene," where Laertes followed his top-hat into Ophelia's grave, watched in stolid amazement by Esmond Knight (now become a jovial, witty and unfeeling Gloucestershire grave-digger in place of the ghost), and the shrieking indignity at the end of the duel scene, where "the death" was ruined by the unnecessary and disturbing movements of the onlookers.

Hamlet, played by Paul Scofield, was outstanding and most interesting. Hamlet's indecision was well drawn, although the apparently quick action of the play did not help to back this side of his character. Scofield was also quick-witted, agile, tender-hearted, loving, cruel, harsh, bitter and ironic, and, by the dexterity of his acting, he portrayed admirably the many sides to Hamlet's character. Here and there as well were glimpses of the younger, simpler, less serious Hamlet of the days before the tragedy.

Although the Victorian costumes and settings created faults and misconceptions, they did bring out the essential tragedy of Hamlet. It is a production not to be missed and after this performance Aristotle's theory was felt to be undeniably true, that pure tragedy purges the emotion with pity and terror.

T. P. D.

3. Cricket at Bristol.

After the School Certificate, Form V's expedition to Bristol with Mr. Austin, was a welcome relief. Our object was to see the second day of the Australian's match with Gloucestershire. It was a rather doubtful venture, as the weather, our means of transport, and our chances of entry into the ground were all uncertain. But all went well, and we had an enjoyable—if at times uncomfortable—day.

The fifteen of us left the College after breakfast armed with sandwiches. When we reached Bristol, the weather was sunny and fairly warm. We got into the ground at about 11. 45 and installed ourselves on the grass near the boundary line almost opposite the pavilion. By this time the Australians, batting for a second day, had scored 601 for 5. Loxton was, 69 and McCool 26; Cook and Cranfield were bowling. The scoring was very quick and McCool produced a delightful selection of late cuts, hooks and cover drives. After scoring his fifty he hit out with sheer abandon and at 76 he was clean bowled by Barnett. The score was then 669 for 6, Loxton being 84. Johnson came in and he and Loxton had a

hurricane stand of 102 for the seventh wicket. Loxton made 75 of these runs in glorious style, while Johnson batted delicately but well for 27. After reaching his century, Loxton hit four rocketing sixes and he continued to drive and hook effortlessly till lunchtime, when, with the Australian total at the record of 774 for 7 declared, he was 159 not out.

Gloucestershire batted after lunch and we had the pleasure of seeing the fast bowler, Ray Lindwall, opening the Australian bowling. He has a lovely action, and in his second spell worked up plenty of pace. Emmett and Allen put on 74 for the county's first wicket. Emmett, one of England's Test "hopes" batted very well until he was beautifully trapped at short leg by the off-spin bowler Ian Johnson. Johnson was, incidentally, the best bowler of the day. His pleasant action, coupled with great accuracy and variety of flight and spin, was fascinating to watch; he is a great artist with the ball. We also saw Loxton, Ring and McCool bowling, and we were impressed by the brilliant fielding of the Australians, and their fast, accurate throwing.

After their fine start Gloucestershire lost the wickets of Emmett, Allen, Barnett and Monks very quickly to Johnson and Ring. But the left-handers, Crapp and Wilson, took the score from 90 for 4 to 175 before Wilson was snapped up by Barnes off Loxton. Crapp, another Test "hope," went on to play a fine, if slow, innings, and when we left the ground at 6 o'clock he was 58 not out (he went on to make a century next day). The Gloucestershire score was 216 for 6.

It had been a grand day's cricket; the weather had smiled on us; the only missing thrill was Bradman, who was not playing.

4. Visit to Oxford.

On the 13th of July, Mr. Tidy took Form III to Oxford to visit the University. The journey passed uneventfully and we arrived at Oxford about midday.

The first item of interest which met our eyes was the Martyrs' Memorial. This commemorated the burning of several Prelates to the Church of England in 1541, who affirmed and maintained against the errors of the Church of Rome. It was beautifully carved out of stone and impressed us very much.

The first college we saw was Balliol. It did not look very impressive, but was just a dull brick building whose front was partly covered with ivy. We were unfortunately unable to look inside. We next saw St. John's where we were all amazed by the impressive silence in the quadrangle compared to the noise of the busy street, where work would seem to come quite naturally. Here the gardens were really very peaceful and full of beautiful flowers.

After our sandwich-lunch in the park we went into the University Museum, which contained many interesting biological specimens.

Then we passed to Wadham College and we all thought that the beautiful dining-room, with its old-fashioned black beams, was characteristic of the Old College. The next building we saw was the Sheldonian Theatre. Opposite this was the Radcliffe Camera, surrounded by three Colleges, Lincoln, Exeter and Hertford. We were, unfortunately, unable to see the famous Old Bodleian Library. We next visited New College. The Chapel was being slightly rebuilt, but we were able to see inside. We were fascinated by the magnificent Reredos. It was beautifully carved in stone and it contained the statues illustrative of the "Te Deum." The inner quadrangle was very silent and surrounded by cloisters.

Then we saw St. Edmund Hall. Although the smallest of the colleges it was undoubtedly one of the most beautiful. The light brown brick was contrasted with bright green foliage and myriads of red geraniums in window-boxes. From the path round the grass of the quadrangle a tree had grown and it stretched into the middle. We next visited Magdalen College, where we were shown round the chapel by a guide who acquainted us with its antiquity and pointed out its beautiful architecture. Under the reredos was a magnificent oil-painting depicting the Crucifixion.

We afterwards went on the River Cherwell, which flows gently past the gardens of Magdalen College, in a punt for an hour, after which we visited Merton, Corpus Christi, and finally Christ Church, with its huge outer quadrangle with a goldfish pond in the centre. Unfortunately there was not sufficient time to look at the gardens as we had to get the bus back to Rendcomb after, as we all agreed, a tiring but very interesting day.

ENTERTAINMENTS, SUMMER TERM, 1948.

A large percentage of the school possessed bicycles this term, and when the weather was not too bad, cycling was very popular. Consequently many of our entertainments centred around "the bicycle."

On the first Saturday of term, we organised a series of cycle games, relay races, cycle football, and other games that call for energy and skill.

The best innovation was "cycle polo." This was a modification of stick and ball games that have hitherto been played on the asphalt, turned, to resemble as much as possible, polo as played on horseback. Surprisingly few bicycles were broken up, damage consisting mainly of broken spokes, and bruised legs.

Players were allowed to play the ball on both sides of the bicycle. If they fell off, the ball had to be played on by another player before they could play it themselves. Teams consisted of four or five players on each side. A motley variety of sticks made their appearance, some more reminiscent of sledge hammers than polo sticks. Many a chorus of "Well played, sir" echoed across the asphalt, before the game faded out.

By request, "Rounders" was played on an average of once a week. The last of the soft ball bats that the American troops presented to us, was broken.

Football, played in the Gymnasium, was useful when the weather proved inclement, as it often did. On a Saturday night when it poured with rain, Forms 1, 2, and 3 attended Junior Games and a Banging Party was held in Big School.

The chief attractions of a Banging Party are the Prize Fights, where the blindfolded competitors confined in a roped-off ring, endeavour to hit each other with sandbags stuffed with shavings. Points are awarded on the basis of the number of hits scored by each competitor on his opponent's head.

Three games of "French and English" were played in the Wilderness, entrants being drawn from all over the school.

Turning to a more peaceful note, Mr. Thackray gave another Piano Recital, which a small but appreciative audience thoroughly enjoyed.

To wind up the term's entertainments we held a Dance in the Gymnasium on the last Saturday of term, from 8 o'clock to 10. 30. Refreshments were served half way through by Miss Babington and a small number of servers.

We are grateful to all those people who afforded us help on this and many other occasions throughout the term.

CRICKET, 1948.

Throughout the season, keenness has been most marked and though the summer was not a particularly good one, the number of games played by the ordinary person was higher than ever before. It is unfortunate therefore that this good state of affairs should have occurred when the school field was in a worse plight than it has ever been. The square is now absurdly small for the demands made upon it and the immediate surround has deteriorated badly through lack of attention. All this is most discouraging for the more skilful players as well as being physically dangerous, and is embarrassing when welcoming other school teams, all of whom have been used to more reasonable conditions. The new nets have been a great boon and have been in full use.

The difficulty is to keep them supplied with material, for present day materials do not stand up to wear—cricket balls in particular give only a fraction of normal service.

Once again we must thank Mr. James for his constant help in the nets, long periods spent on the field, and for his being constantly available for advice, not only about cricket, but also in the straightening out of administrative difficulties. The arrival of Mr. Austin has been of great assistance to our cricket and he has given most freely of his time, particularly in taking main charge of the juniors; but all have benefited greatly from his assistance. Mr. Tidy helped considerably, especially with fielding practices and towards the end of the season Mr. Thackray assisted with the umpiring.

But the success of the season was due in no small measure to the captaincy of T. P. Denehy. For the second year in succession there was the same efficiency, the same unoffensive attention to the small and unspectacular details of organisation which make all the difference between a good games day and a bad one; on the field there was the right blend of firmness and kindly encouragement; future captains have been set a high standard.

The team as a whole showed a high standard of technical skill especially in batsmanship. When necessary, runs could be made and well made down to number eleven. Unfortunately there was at times a lack of confidence and aggression which prevented batsmen of considerable technique from doing themselves justice. The fielding was variable but in general fairly good. The bowling tended to depend too much on Topps, but there was a fair though rather changeable reserve of skill.

We take the batting order as it finally emerged as a basis for discussion of individuals. Davis was an improved batsman with a very good judgment of length, using his feet well; he made a number of runs though he struck a bad period in mid season; his wicket-keeping has not, however, entirely fulfilled expectations. In the last game Topps opened the batting with Davis; he has some nice strokes but one thinks of him mainly as a bowler. He was the mainstay of our attack and has an ability to bring, the ball back sharply at a good speed. If only he can keep the ball up to the batsman he should become very dangerous. Harris was a greatly improved batsman of marked promise. He has several weaknesses but he has also a good, correct style and, when he gained confidence, some fine shots, in particular an off drive of great power. His bowling has deteriorated but on occasion he regained his old accuracy. Gilchrist was, as his scores suggest, the best batsman in the side; he is polished and when well set is a joy to watch; but he is an uncertain starter—if only he could make up his mind to hit the long hop outside the leg stump with

the same speed and power in the first over as he hits it after an hour's batting! His fielding close to the wicket was safe and clean. Bye, who acted as captain of the "A" team and handled it well, was an improved batsman, but most interest centred in his bowling, for during the second half of the season he developed rapidly; he has a good left arm bowler's action and moves the ball away from the batsman in a most promising way. Denehy was a natural hitter and his scoring was therefore irregular but speedy; on several occasions his powerful hitting was most useful in restoring confidence; his bowling deteriorated as the season advanced, but his fielding was always good. Brain was a safe field and a pretty bat with some promising strokes, but more effort and concentration is needed in his batting, both on and off the field, if it is to improve. Sumsion as a bat lacks confidence, but when he can overcome this may become a useful left-hander. His fielding was always keen and good. Paish was a safe field, while as a bat he was rustic but very severe on the bad length ball on the off. Bick also showed promise as a bat but as yet lacks power; he made himself a good field close in.

In the "A" XI Brisley, Greedy and Plenderleith all showed promise for the future; the two former showed promise as bowlers and should practise intelligently as they may be very useful next season.

In the Junior XI Reed and Statham were outstanding and show much promise, while Painter, de Peyer, Harrison, Waite, de Iongh and Vaisey performed creditably on various occasions. The team was unfortunate in having some of its matches cancelled, which was disappointing as there was great keenness.

Matches.

May 19th. 1st XI v. Sir Thomas Rich's 2nd XI. Home. Won 93—60.

We were considerably the stronger side. Davis batted well for 28. Topps took 4 for 15.

May 22nd. 1st XI v. Dean Close 2nd XI. Home.

Won 162 for 6 declared—70.

Davis again played a good innings of 30 but the outstanding performance was Gilchrist's 87 not out. Our opponents showed little resistance to the bowling of Topps (5 for 22), until the tail-enders by some vigorous, though rustic, cricket, added more than half the score.

June 5th. 1st XI v. Burford G. S. Away. Won 58—12.

Burford batted first but proved quite unable to cope with our bowling. Topps (6 for 4) bowled the batsmen almost at will, while Denehy (4 for 8) also bowled very well. We batted in a rather poor light but this hardly excused our low score of 58. Gilchrist got 29 but was never comfortable.

June 23rd. 1st XI v. North Cerney. Home. Lost 36—77 for 9.

We never adapt ourselves to evening games. We batted without any confidence or aggression. Denehy alone hit the ball hard. Topps took 4 for 27 and Denehy 4 for 9.

July 3rd. 1st XI v. Cirencester G. S. Home. Won 136—42.

The score suggests an easy win but in fact it was an amazing win. Cirencester were dismissed by 4 o'clock, our most successful bowlers being Harris (4 for 16) and Bye (3 for 5). Bye in particular bowled beautifully. In the half hour before tea we scored 14 for the loss of 6 wickets, 10 of these runs being byes. Mowby, bowling at good pace from the top end and turning the ball sharply, repeatedly beat not only batsman but wicket-keeper also. The match seemed over but Gilchrist was still in. After tea the bowling lost its sting a little and Gilchrist mastered it. When the eighth wicket fell we had tied. Thereafter Gilchrist went on to make 81 not out, aided by Jones who scored 25.

July 10th. 1st XI v. Dean Close "A" XI. Away.

Drawn 133 for 4 declared—71 for 8.

It was a joy to bat on a really good pitch. The result was a moral victory for us. Gilchrist scored 63 not out and was never in difficulty, while Denehy's 38 was a tornado innings, 20 coming off four balls. We just failed to remove our opponents in time, though Bye bowled well, taking 4 for 11.

July 14th. 1st XI v. North Cerney. Home. Lost 69—70 for 6.

Again lack of confidence led to defeat. Denehy (16) and Sumsion (14) were the best performers.

July 17th. 1st XI v. Old Rendcombians. Home.

Drawn 83—3 for 1.

We should have made far more than 83 had we adopted more aggressive methods. The main feature was a steady and stylish 24 by Harris—a most promising innings. We fielded for 50 minutes in heavy rain and then had to abandon the game.

July 22nd. 1st XI v. A. C. Austin's XI. Home.

Drawn 157 for 7 declared—82 for 6.

Davis and Topps put on 59 for the 1st wicket, Davis contributing 47 and Topps 29. Denehy got 38. For A. C. Austin's XI Reed made 53.

July 24th. 1st XI v. Cirencester G. S. Home. Won 72—60.

We batted badly; even Gilchrist's 31 was far below his best. We owed our victory to Bye's excellent bowling; he took 6 for 13.

May 15th. "A" XI v. Cotswold School 1st XI. Home.

Won 141—35 (Paish 85 not out, Topps 5 for 3).

June 12th. "A" XI v. Kingham Hill School 1st XI. Home.

Lost 31—79.

June 26th. "A" XI v. King's School, Sherborne 1st XI. Away.

Won 69—51 (Topps 5 for 10).

July 15th. "A" XI v. Kingham Hill School. Away.

Lost 65—92.

May 15th. Junior XI v. Cirencester G. S. Juniors. Away.

Lost 106—111.

June 12th. Junior XI v. Kingham Hill Juniors. Away.

Won 138—62 (Reed 23, Statham 49).

July 13th. Junior XI v. Sir Thomas Rich's Colts. Away.

Lost 55—63 for 4.

Our opponents were older and bigger and we did reasonably well in difficult circumstances.

July 24th. Junior XI v. Cirencester G. S. Juniors. Away.

Lost 22—101.

The team was tired and quite listless after a very late night.

ATHLETICS.

The chief event of the term was the North Cerney race, run on Wednesday, June 16th. In this Morgan repeated his Lodges success of last term by winning in the extremely good time of 22 min. 14 sec. This was only 3 seconds outside the school record. The other two runners, Payne and Knight, also did well. The times were as follows: —

M. J. Morgan— 22 mins. 14 secs.

D. J. Payne— 25 mins. 17 secs.

M. E. Knight— 29 mins. 15 secs.

Running has been more popular than usual this year and several boys have been going for early morning runs before breakfast. Training for the races this year has been more systematic and this has contributed to some excellent results.

In the field events there has been great improvement, particularly amongst the juniors. The “hop, step and jump” is probably the most popular in the lower half of the school, but creditable performances have been recorded in all events.

We are now fairly well off for athletics facilities. The cinder track is useful for limbering up and sprinting practice, though it would need a good deal of time and labour to keep it in good condition. The upper high jump pit has been enlarged to meet the need of Western-Rollers. We have had all the pits re-filled with sand.

Thanks to the efforts of Morris and Payne the long jump pit and run-up have been effectively wired off against cows, and Mr. Graty has provided a handsome gate near the upper high jump pit.

Besides the usual equipment good use has been made of the terrace steps for athletic purposes, and the skipping rope has not been disregarded.

Amongst the seniors some of the best performances of the term include jumps of over 5 ft. in the high jump, over 19 ft. in the long jump, and 36 ft. in the hop, step and jump, and several boys throw the 12lb. weight more than 32 ft.

One of our biggest needs at the moment is a reliable stopwatch.

An unfortunate error appeared in last term’s issue which stated that the record for the Senior Lodges Race was set up by “R. C. Walters.” The name, of course, should be “R. C. V. Waters.” We apologise for the error and any misunderstanding it may have caused.

NOTE.

Reports and critiques of Concerts, Lectures, Acting, Games and the like are normally written by a member of the school or staff. When written by anyone else they carry the author’s initials. Reports are written by invitation and do not necessarily represent the views of the majority of the audience present—nor is it intended that they should. On occasion, the judgments of experts, of persons “in statu pupilarum,” of adults or of enthusiasts, differ widely from each other.