

RENDCOMB COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Vol. 8 No. 2

February, 1945

Rendcomb College Magazine

Vol. 8. No. 2.

February, 1945.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Michaelmas Term, 1944.

Once again we returned at the beginning of a new school year to find the building looking remarkably clean and bright. For this our thanks are due to the group who spent a week of their summer holiday in College and we can only hope that this time was as enjoyable as it was profitable.

* * * *

Term began on Wednesday, September 20th, but in accordance with established practice, new boys arrived on the previous day.

* * * *

Unfortunately Nature is reluctant to indulge in a two months' rest at Mid-Summer and there was as usual a considerable amount of work to be done on the field. However, this was tackled energetically and all arrears were cleared off on the first Friday of term with a minimum of interference with the regular routine.

* * * *

The Harvest Festival was celebrated in Rendcomb Church on Sunday, September 24th, while on the following day the whole School took part in a most successful blackberrying expedition which resulted in the collection of some 221 lbs. of fruit.

* * * *

One evening in October a temporary failure in the electricity supply caused some inconvenience but perhaps more excitement. It was pleasant to recover for a while the charm of candle light, a charm possibly enhanced by the fact that it curtailed "Prep.," though the pleasure might well have palled had the failure been of longer duration.

* * * *

We were very fortunate this term in the number and quality of the lectures and entertainments given by visitors to the College. We are very grateful to them, especially in view of the present travelling difficulties and the pressing demands made upon everybody's time. Reports are to be found elsewhere in this issue.

Early in November we received with mixed feelings other visitors—feathered ones! We are referring, of course, to the hordes of starlings which suddenly descended upon us out of the blue and soon began to make their presence felt in no uncertain manner. For those who wish, an unbiased account will be found under the heading “Biological Notes.”

* * * *

The Half Term Holiday took place in good weather on Friday, November 10th.

* * * *

One of the outstanding features of this term has been the revival of bell-ringing in Rendcomb Church. Some there may be who feel a tinge of disappointment that this has not been postponed until the end of the War (at least in the European theatre). They had looked forward to seeing the country suddenly transformed from - darkness and silence to a blaze of light and sound, and feel cheated to see a more gradual transition taking place. Yet the majority of us were frankly delighted to hear the bells peal out again on the morning of the Carol Service.

Two groups of ringers have been formed; they have practised consistently with vigour and enthusiasm and have already attained a considerable measure of skill. For this we are largely indebted to Mr. W. Cooper who has kindly acted as instructor.

* * * *

At this point mention may appropriately be made of the ship's bell which now “rings the changes” for us throughout the day.

* * * *

On December 6th a School Music Making was held in the Music Room.

* * * *

On Saturday, December 16th, a short play, “The Peace Egg”, was presented by members of Form III.

* * * *

On Sunday, December 17th, a Carol Service was held in Rendcomb Church.

* * * *

The Christmas Party took place on the following evening and, as usual, we were very pleased to welcome many of our friends in the village. A report is to be found elsewhere, but it is worth recording here that it was one of the most successful of recent years and a very fitting conclusion to the term.

The Staff Discussion Group resumed its fortnightly meetings this term. The programme was as follows:

Oct. 3. Dr. D. Gray—"Modern Surgical Methods."

Oct. 17. Mr. A. G. G. Richards—"The Fleming Report."

Oct. 31. Mr. H. W. Sumsion—Pianoforte Recital.

Nov. 14. Mr. H. U. Molineaux—"Design."

Nov. 28. Mr. C. A. Joyce—"Ashton Keynes and its implications."

* * * *

We record with pleasure the birth of a son (Andrew) to Mr. and Mrs. Neal.

* * * *

Several Staff changes have taken place. We welcome Mr. J. H. Parry who comes from Marlborough Grammar School to take charge of the workshop.

Mrs. Tily has come to take charge of the Linen Room, and Miss Hewitt to be Assistant Matron. We wish them a happy stay with us.

Mr. R. N. D. Wilson left at Christmas after being with us for over ten years. His departure will leave a gap which will not again be filled in quite the same way for any of us, and for those who got to know him well, there will be a sense of personal loss which will not easily be repaired. As the picture of his pre-prandial perambulations with Mr. Molineaux fades, we shall remember him most in relation to his books and pictures, his love of architecture, and his wide knowledge of the Arts. He has the best wishes of all of us in his post as English Master at Wolverhampton Grammar School.

* * * *

We were pleased to see Mr. Frowd again on several occasions during the Term.

* * * *

C. C. Richardson passed at the London School Certificate Examination held in December.

* * * *

We extend our welcome to the following new boys: P. W. Dutton, R. H. Jones, J. Kitto, M. G. Petter, J. W. J. Reed, J. R. Smith, K. A. Statham, C. D. Whittle.

* * * *

Our good wishes go with C. J. N. Richardson who left at the end of term.

THE GENERAL MEETING.

Easter Term, 1945.

Chairman—J. J. North.

Council—D. H. Hill, R. Brain, D. M. Grant, R. E. Hayward,
J. J. North, B. W. Plenderleith, R. T. Wood.

Meeting Selection Committee—D. H. Hill, R. Brain, J. J. North, B. W.
Plenderleith, R. T. Wood.

Secretary—G. S. Davis.

House Committee—M. R. F. Butlin, H. A. G. Hartley, K. J. Hanney,
J. M. Trickett, T. T. Walters, C. B. Lane.

Games Committee—R. Brain, B. W. Plenderleith, J. J. North,
J. M. Henshaw.

Senior Shopman—D. G. Knight.

Shopmen—G. H. Bye, E. A. Jones.

Banker—T. R. Morris.

Apprentice Banker—M. B. Shephard.

Breakages Man—D. J. Dodwell.

Auditors—J. C. Waterton, M. B. Shephard.

Apprentice Auditors—R. K. G. Bick, K. J. Hanney.

Finance Committee—R. J. Kendal, R. K. G. Bick, L. V. Crawford.

Entertainments Committee—E. A. Jones, J. D. Draper, P. W.
Sumsion, G. H. Bye, H. A. G. Hartley.

Cycle Men—T. R. Morris, T. T. Walters, D. J. Dodwell.

Meeting Almoner—M. J. Morgan.

Paperman—H. A. G. Hartley.

Amplifier Committee—N. P. Elson, T. T. Walters, D. J. Dodwell, J. R. C.
Baillie, J. D. Draper.

Magazine Committee—D. G. Knight, J. W. Sumsion, N. M. Wood.

Drying Room Committee—M. R. F. Butlin, T. R. Morris, I. S. Menzies.

Record Committee—D. H. Hill, D. M. Grant, J. W. Sumsion, D.
G. Knight, D. J. Dodwell.

Salvage Organiser—W. S. Monroe.

Salvage Committee—J. A. Barclay, J. H. Shield.

Mowing Man—N. P. Elson.

Assistant Mowing Man—R. I. G. Hale.

Public Work Man—S. H. Groves.

Games Secretaries—Hockey, C. C. Richardson; Cricket, G. S.
Davis; Football, R. I. G. Hale.

Games Wardens—Hockey, G. H. Bye, R. I. G. Hale; Football, J.
D. M. Smith; Cricket, R. I. G. Hale; Indoor, M. E. Knight, E. F. P.
Topps.

Groundsmen—Hockey, K. E. Banks; Cricket, J. W. Sumsion;
Tennis, D. J. Payne, W. S. Monroe; Golf, I. S. Menzies.

Trapper—D. J. Payne.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

Honours.

R. G. Daubeny has been awarded the Order of the British Empire.

* * * *

We have heard from Walter Burns, who is a Flying Officer in the R. A. F. and is at present in this country. He writes that he saw a good deal of Hubert Hanks in East Africa.

Guy Buck is still in India.

F. R. Dobbs is in Turkey.

Gwilym Morgan is in Normandy.

J. W. H. Neads was married recently to Miss Jacqueline Barnby, W. R. N. S.

J. F. Roper is working with U. N. R. R. A. attached to Army H. Q. He has been in Cairo. His work has been in connection with transport, water purification, etc., in Refugee Camps.

R. N. Short has been invalided out of the R. A. F.

* * * *

The following Old Boys visited College during the Term: —

E. R. S. Gillham (and Mrs. Gillham), M. C. B. Russell, M. C. Thompson, E. B. Smith, R. A. S. Primrose, E. J. M. Jefferies, C. E. H. Tuck.

BIOLOGICAL NOTES—Christmas Term, 1944.

Work on badger problems was continued with considerable enthusiasm by intrepid members of the Sixth armed with staves to give them moral support. The main problem for solution was the time of mating. This has not yet been proved, but strong evidence has been obtained. Further work is still needed to confirm this. The number of badgers in Conigre wood has been successfully worked out, the difficulty of observing all the sets at the same time being solved by having one person near each; in this way a roll call has been taken on several occasions, and the seasonal distribution determined.

We have added considerably to our knowledge of their diet during the autumn months, and it has been conclusively proved that they do not hibernate in this district even in the coldest weather. It is possible that they stay in their sets for a few days at a time, but even this seems to be unusual as their activity was noted after a night when the thermometer registered 14 degrees of frost, and on two successive nights when snow was on the ground.

One of the outstanding events of the term was the roosting of tens of thousands of starlings in the laurels above the back drive. The majority of the birds were probably migrants from Europe, and every night from early November onwards they congregated. About three quarters of an hour before dusk, the first small flocks arrived, then others joined them until they seemed to cover the sky. It was an amazing spectacle to see them flying in perfect formation, wheeling and gliding as if controlled by some unseen leader, but in reality reacting at almost incredible speed to the slightest variation in movement by those that happened to be in front at the time. The reactions are so quick that the human eye registers them as practically instantaneous.

A few favourite trees were used as temporary resting places in the evening, and one old elm in front of the College, gaunt and dead, seemed suddenly to burst into full leaf as hundreds of the birds settled on it. When they settled they at once broke out into a flood of song that was almost deafening. Each bush was full to capacity by dusk, and late arrivals wheeling overhead would dive almost perpendicularly into the bushes to join their comrades.

There were a good many casualties each night, and it was not unusual to pick up five or six dead in the morning; after a frosty night many more. Each morning they flew off to their feeding grounds, mainly in a southerly direction.

During a very cold spell their number was greatly increased, probably by an influx from the Eastern counties where the conditions were still more arctic. It will be interesting to see the effect of this mass invasion on the laurels; the mechanical damage must be considerable though it may not have affected the buds, but the increase in nitrogen should certainly have a drastic effect on their future growth, and possibly too upon the olfactory senses of the passers by!

LECTURES.

On Wednesday, September 27th, Mr. R. N. Webb gave a very instructive lecture in Big School on "Smoke Abatement, Coal and Gas." Mr. Webb was for a long time a Chief Engineer of the Leeds City Gas Company and was obviously complete master of his subject. One of his chief points was to show the increasing danger to health and happiness from smoke both from factory and domestic chimneys. This part of the lecture was particularly well illustrated by his lantern slides. He then described in detail the various processes in the production of coal-gas and some recent improvements.

Although rather technical in parts this lecture was appreciated by all, and we are greatly indebted to Mr. Webb for such a clear explanation of the workings of this important industry.

On Wednesday evening, October 25th, Mr. G. M. Scrutton, J. P. gave a talk in the Library on "Local Government and the Rural District Council." He was very well equipped with subject- matter including several amusing anecdotes and interesting local examples. He is at present Chairman of the Cirencester R. D. C., having been a Councillor for twenty-one years.

The subject does not lend itself easily to the lecturer addressing boys of ages varying from twelve to eighteen, but nevertheless Mr. Scrutton's talk was extremely interesting, not least because of his very comfortable and pleasant manner of delivery.

He began by sketching the history of local government up to its fiftieth anniversary which we celebrate this year. Then he explained: the various functions of the R. D. C. and of the other councils. He pointed out some of the faults in the system and stressed the fact that the local government experiment has not been as successful as it might have been because of the apathy of the general public. The record of this district illustrated his point well—There has been no contested election for eighteen years!

Afterwards members of the Sixth Form had a further discussion in Mrs. Browne's Room. We went to bed feeling much wiser and better informed—the result of a very good lecture and lecturer.

On Wednesday evening, November 8th, Dr. D. Gray talked on "Modern Surgery" in the Library. He began by distinguishing between a surgeon and a butcher, and then he took us back a hundred years when only half the patients operated on survived. First of all he told us how an Austrian surgeon discovered the advantages of operating with clean hands, a practice which seems so elementary to us, but which was never done then. Dr. Gray went on to describe Pasteur's discovery of "germs" which led to Lister's antiseptic. Then we came to M and B, sulphanilamide, and penicillin, the latest contribution of chemists to surgery. We also heard something of anaesthetics, blood transfusions and the use of Plaster of Paris. While explaining their application in modern surgery Dr. Gray described the treatment given to soldiers wounded at the front; more than ever we were impressed by the good to be obtained from scientific research when directed into the right channels.

After most people had gone to bed, some members of the Sixth Form stayed behind to ask questions. We are indebted to Dr. Gray for a very interesting and humorous talk; we can only wish that he had had more time at his disposal to have gone further into the details of modern surgery.

On Saturday, November 11th, Mr. K. Prior gave a most interesting and informative lecture on "Nigerian Agriculture," treating his subject very broadly. He mentioned the superstitions of the natives and other difficulties to be overcome in the modernization of African economics, agriculture and general social structure and referred to the improvements already achieved. The lecturer had a wide background of experience to draw from, for he has lived and worked in Nigeria for many years as an agricultural missionary, thereby acquiring an intimate knowledge of the people, their methods and religion. Mr. Prior has a very effective speaking manner, enriched with an authentic humour. He left us with a newly awakened interest in what we had previously thought of as an almost apocryphal region of the British Empire.

MUSIC.

Pianoforte Recital.

At 6.20 p. m. on Tuesday, October 31st, in the Music Room. Given by Mr. H. W. Sumsion, organist of Gloucester Cathedral.

PROGRAMME.

"The Pathétique" Sonata in C minor.	L. Van Beethoven.
"Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring." J. S. Bach (arr. for piano by Myra Hess).	
Polonaise in A major.	F. Chopin.
Polonaise in C sharp minor.	F. Chopin.
Pastorale.	F. Poulenc.
Humoreske.	H. W. Sumsion.
"When it rains."	Pouishnoff.

The Pathétique is a fine work, with its mighty first movement and rapid light last movement, separated by the gently flowing Adagio Cantabile, and was admirably and clearly played by Mr. Sumsion.

Then as a contrast came "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring"; we have heard this arrangement many times before, but still found charm in the graceful triplets that weave around the sweet singing chorale.

It was very pleasant to hear the Polonaise in A played really well; and the lesser known Polonaise in C sharp minor showed another, deeper, side of Chopin, which on the whole we preferred.

To those of us who had met Francis Poulenc's works before, the Pastorale was not a great surprise, but undoubtedly some of the audience had a considerable shock when they heard it. Strange though it is, it is yet attractive and amusing.

To hear a composer play his own work is a rare privilege for most of us, and so we were especially pleased by the Humoreske— it is charming

and light-hearted, a delightfully refreshing sketch.

Mr. Sumsion finished his programme with the Pouishnoff "When it Rains," in which the rain is imitated by a quickly repeating note in the treble.

It was a well chosen and most enjoyable programme, excellently played, and we sincerely hope that Mr. Sumsion will be able to come and play to us again in the near future.

* * * *

On Saturday evening, November 18th, Miss Dorothy Jones (violin) and Miss Ann Adams (piano), members of the Cheltenham Ladies' College Staff, gave a recital in the Music Room. Miss Jones' playing was the best on the violin that I believe we have yet heard from a visiting artist at Rendcomb. It was brilliant, thrilling, and also sensitive. We have heard comparatively little violin music recently and we fully realized its supreme place as a solo instrument.

The Handel D major Sonata was bursting with the composer's vitality, cheerfulness and optimism. The two slow movements contrasted well with the charming Fughetta and the well-known dancelike Allegro. Handel is easily appreciated, but we felt more than sheer pleasure, we felt the magnificence of Versailles, a portrayal of the best things in life—Music which suffers little from its lack of profundity.

Following this Miss Adams played a Passacaglia by the same composer. This was good, sound music; the variations were interesting but lacked enough variety.

The last item was Beethoven's Sonata for Violin and Piano in F major—free and romantic music with its lovely tune which has gained for the work the title of the "Spring" Sonata. The first movement we felt was the best—passionate, romantic, but supremely happy—very well played. The slow movement seemed rather too long—a feeling due perhaps to youth's impatience, but the "foolish" Scherzo woke us up with its Puckish freaks. The Finale, a brilliant Rondo, completed the work which we felt was among the best of Beethoven's Sonatas.

It is not often that we have the opportunity of hearing such music and we can only wish that we could have had more.

SCHOOL MUSIC MAKING.

December 6th, 1944.

A School Music-making does not call for individual comment, but we feel this time that we must congratulate the performers on their greater attempt at interpretation. The technical level of the programme also showed an improvement, and in consequence this was one of the most successful music-makings that we can remember.

PROGRAMME.

1. Orchestra. Three Christmas Carols, arr. for piano, strings and woodwind. 1st violin, R. Wood; 2nd violin, Draper; Cello, Kitto; Flutes, Sumsion J. and Grant; Piano, Butlin. Conductor, Hanney.
2. Piano (Sumsion P.) "From the Cliffs" Walter Carroll.
No. I of "Sea Idylls". Study in A minor, op.340 No. 2. Mayer.
3. Songs. An Ancient Polish Carol. Form I. Folk Carol.
"When the Christ was born." Forms I and II. Reinecke.
4. Piano (Butlin). Air on a Ground Bass. Purcell.
5. Violin and Piano (Wood R. and Sumsion J.) Tartini.
Andante from Sonata.
6. Piano (Carus-Wilson C.) Chopin.
Waltz in B minor.-op. 69. No. 2.
7. Song, 4-part (The Choir) Charles Wood.
"Music when soft voices die."
8. Piano (Hale). Minuet in D minor. Bach.
9. Flute Trio (Grant; Wood N; Sumsion J.) James Hook.
Sonata in G major, op. 83. No. 4.
10. Piano (Knight D.) Intermezzo in E major Brahms.
op. 116. No. 6.
11. Small Choir. French Folk Carol.
"Lying the Ox's stall within."

ACTING.

With the exception of the Christmas Party sketches there was only one play this term:

The Peace Egg.

This was a short folk play, the title of which may seem at first somewhat obscure. The word "peace egg" is a sophisticated corruption of "pace-egg"; this, in turn, is a popular corruption of

“pasque-egg” or “Easter-egg.” The play appears to have its roots in the pagan festivals of the vegetation spirit which were intimately concerned with fighting. It seems natural to suppose that with the coming of Christianity, the celebration of the pagan ritual should take place on St. George’s Day, which falls in the same season, and that the militant saint of Christendom should replace the spirit in the ceremony.

The nucleus of the play is the fight between St. George and the swaggering Slasher, and the restoration of the latter by the Doctor after he is wounded. St. George’s successful encounters with his other notable rivals merely serve to boost up his reputation. Little Devil Doubt is probably a corruption of “Little Devil Dout”, to “clout” is to do out, meaning here to drive out the actors after he has fulfilled his function of pronouncing the epilogue and collecting the money.

The acting was good—gestures were not overdone and the speaking was clear, though sometimes slightly expressionless. Form III obviously show promise as regards future actors. The cast was as follows:

St. George	G. J. Chagrin.
St. George’s Squire	J. H. Shield.
Fool	R. K. G. Bick.
Slasher	K. M. Sheppard.
Doctor	L. V. Crawford.
Prince of Paradine	F. D. Humphris.
His Slave	M. E. Knight.
King of Egypt	R. W. Smith.
His Slave	P. H. S. Harris.
Hector	M. W. Brain.
Beelzebub	R. Margetts.
Little Devil Doubt	C. I. Brisley.

PUPPET PLAYS.

Presented by the Rendcomb Puppet Players
on Wednesday, November 22nd.

“Old King Cole.”

Koko, the Clown	P. J. Ryman.
Old King Cole	P. G. Cockell.
Ted, a soldier	E. F. P. Topps.
Public Nuisance No. 1.....	B. G. H. Levers.
Spots, a horse	R. van den Driessche.

Scrooge and Marley

Scrooge	R. K. G. Bick.
Marley	F. D. Humphris.
Bob Cratchitt	M. W. Brain.
The Girl	Hermione Lee-Browne, R. W. Smith.
Boy	R. W. Smith.

“Miffers.”

Miffer	H. U. Molineaux, P. S. W. Beck.
A damsel	N. M. Wood.
Her Mother	P. S. W. Beck.

“Old King Cole,” another of the Junior Puppet Players' Toy Town epics, is cast in the usual humorous vein. Old King Cole's pipe and bowl are lost and the Public Nuisance attempts an assassination . He is captured and, after the application of a little third degree, reveals the whereabouts of the missing articles and denounces an ex-fiddler as his accomplice.

“Scrooge and Marley” was cleverly adapted from Charles Dickens' well known “Christmas Carol,” and the performance was of a very high standard. The technique was again slightly uncertain but the dialogue the best we have heard for a long time. Congratulations are due to Mr. Molineaux for his effective and tasteful condensation of the plot, and to the players who gave a very pleasing performance.

“Miffers” was a farcical sketch based on the satirical character of “Miffer,” by Stephen Beck, and shows his courting and rebuff in amusing dumb show interspersed with appropriate noises. This was effective though somewhat drawn-out in parts, thus marring slightly the general effect. Apart from this the dolls were well acted and most amusingly executed.

In all these plays the scenery was magnificent; despite all their difficulties the puppeteers have maintained a high standard in their sets and stage properties. The show was on the whole one of the most enjoyable that the puppeteers have given us in recent years.

FILM SHOW.

On Saturday evening, Nov. 25th, we were visited by a Ministry of Information film unit, and a show was given in Big School. It was one of the best we have had, and the most obvious forms of propaganda, which sometimes spoils these films, were happily

missing. First of all we saw an interesting and varied news-reel,, then a well-arranged description of a Building School for boys, giving an enlightening account of the simple principles of building. An issue of the "March of Time" dealt with the problem of Japan very well, and from an unbiased point of view we were given the truth, and that made the film. The last film, "Atlantic Trawler," suffered from some technical defects, but was nevertheless very interesting.

A film show is always popular and the popularity of this one was certainly justified by its quality.

THE CAROL SERVICE.

This year's service held in Rendcomb Church on Sunday, December 17th, must have given great pleasure to all who attended it. It was marked by a harmonious unity testifying to the care with which the carols and lessons had been chosen, a unity in no way impaired by the diversity in the nature of the carols.,

In accordance with the usual custom the lessons were read by several of the boys. Of the carols we may venture to pick out one or two which particularly appealed to us: "Here is the Little Door," by Herbert Howells, which was very well rendered in view of its difficulty; "Hail, Shepherds, Hail," a very jolly French folk carol, but perhaps most of all "O Bethlehem," of Basque origin which was outstanding for the exquisite beauty of both its words and music. They were all interpreted by the Choir with feeling and understanding.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.

There was a frenzy of work. A mass of people carrying holly and fir, ran round the halls; yards of electric wire, strings of fairy lights and numerous amplifiers appeared from the depths of dusty cupboards, and were hung in all conceivable positions on walls and doors; everyone shouted, and chaos reigned. Then suddenly, as if by magic, the floors were swept and clean, the fairy lights glowed, and fires blazed up the chimneys—the Party had begun.

PROGRAMME.

- 5.00 "Wadyaknow" (Competition in style of B. B. C. Red Cross Contest.)
- 6.00 Supper.
- 7.15. Dancing.
- 8.00 Sketches.
- 8.45. Dancing.
- 9.15 onwards. Stage door Canteen open for light refreshments.
- 10.30. Auld Lang Syne.

There is no need to comment on each individual item, for one remark can sum up everything. Everywhere was a refreshing charm and originality displayed; in the candles held in the rustic sticks that lighted the Dining Room while we ate a supper of pre-war size and quality; in the simple and amusing sketches, and in the entertainments for those who tired of dancing and sought other amusement. Never before can we remember a Party in which, from beginning to end, as much ingenuity and good taste prevailed.

A. T. C.

The Rendcomb Section of the Air Training Corps held its first parade on the 29th September, 1944, and was sworn in on the 5th October. The section, which is eleven strong, parades every Friday afternoon in the general lab. for Morse, navigation, and aircraft recognition; The lab. courtyard makes an ideal parade ground.

Every other Thursday night the section cycles to Cirencester for drill with the rest of the Cirencester and District 1245 Squadron in the Corn Hall. Also once a term they attend a Sunday Church Parade at Watermoor Parish Church.

Visits to nearby aerodromes, which will include flying, are eagerly looked forward to next Summer.

GAMES REPORT.

September, 1944, found us with only four members of the previous 1st XI left. However, after much experimenting we were able to put into the field an XI that could keep up the standard set by our predecessors.

There was no shortage of material during the term and the weather very seldom let us down.

In Hale we had a new goalkeeper who showed good anticipation but sometimes ran the risk of coming out too far. North and Banks proved a fine combination as backs.

Grant, as centre-half, and Henshaw as left half were both regular players but there was no permanent holder of the position of right half. Grant, who was new to his position at the beginning of the season, developed a good tackle and helped to keep the line together; his main failing was not passing soon enough.

The forward line tended to lack the usual co-operation, but contained two excellent wings, Richardson, C. J., and Plenderleith, who gave the centre of the held many fine opportunities.

The inside forwards were Wood N., and Brain; both had vigour and push behind their tackles but lacked that skill with the feet necessary for their position.

Alder and Richardson, C. C., both played in matches and kept up a good standard of football throughout the season.

Hill again made a good captain both on and off the field. His own performance must have been disappointing to him as well as others who expected great things in his third year as centre-forward. In judging this it must be remembered that not for many years have we been so weak in the forward line and his keenness and energy had usually very little to work on. He can, however, look back on a season of unusually keen and enjoyable football played in a spirit he did much to create.

The second and third games showed great enthusiasm and there is good promise for the future in the third game.

Fixtures.

1st XI v Cirencester Youth Services, Dec. 2nd. Won 3—1 (H).

1st XI v Cirencester Youth Services, Dec. 16th. Lost 3—2 (H).

1st XI v A. G. G. Richards XI, Oct. 21st. Lost 5—4 (Home),

1st XI v A. G. G. Richards XI, Dec. 16th. Lost 5—2 (Home).

“A” XI v Cirencester Grammar School, Oct. 14th. Won 4—1 (A).

“A” XI v Cirencester Grammar Sch., Nov. 25th. Won 8—1 (H).