

RENDCOMB COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Vol. 8 No. 12

July, 1948

Rendcomb College Magazine

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JULY, 1948.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Lent Term, 1948.

Term began on Wednesday, January 14th.

A performance of Drinkwater's "X = 0" was given on Saturday, February 21st.

"The Duel," by P. G. Cockell and J. Gilchrist, was performed on Saturday, February 28th.

On Thursday, March 4th, a lantern lecture on "Chinese Pagodas" was given by W. J. Willets, O. R.

On Monday, March 8th, a party of boys attended an exhibition of Bible manuscripts in the Bingham Library, Cirencester.

Puppet shows were given on March 8th, 10th and 11th.

The Lodges Races were run on March 8th and 12th.

A school Music-Making was held on Sunday, March 14th.

On Thursday, March 18th, a lecture and demonstration on tennis was given by Major A. E. Millman and Captain D. R. Bocquet.

Term ended on Wednesday, March 24th.

The Term was marked by a long spell of fine weather and far more time was spent out of doors than is usually possible this term. Comparisons were naturally made with the Lent Term, 1947, when there was still some snow left at the end of March. This year, allotment holders were able to make a start with their digging; canoeists were on the lake; and house-builders were busy in the wilderness. Even a game of cricket was organised on the football pitch.

The men were busy cutting back the laurels on the north side of the back drive which had become badly overgrown. The result is a great improvement.

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Two more numbers of "Summit" appeared during the term.

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A game of rugger was organised on Top one Sunday afternoon towards the end of term.

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There have been three Q. P. gramophone concerts this term.

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The staff enjoyed badminton in the gym during the term.

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We acknowledge with grateful thanks a gift to the Library of an illustrated copy of "Great Masters of Landscape Painting," from the French of Emile Michel, given by Miss Jean Hartley. We are also grateful to Mrs. H. Gerrard for the gift of two books.

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Our good wishes go with Miss Carnell who left at the end of the Lent Term. On the secretarial side her place has been taken by Miss M. C. Wheaton, and Miss M. Organ has come to take charge of the music for one term.

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We are most grateful to Mr. F. A. Statham for the gift of a table-top Billiard Table. This will be a welcome addition to Big School during next winter.

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We extend our good wishes also to H. A. G. Hartley who left at the end of the Lent Term.

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We welcome the following new boys who entered the College in the Summer Term: D. E. Barbour and R. Harford.

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We acknowledge with thanks from the Rev. A. G. Ensor, O. R., the receipt of copies of the "Forum," a South African independent weekly news review.

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The timber in the famous Kennel Bottom spinneys is to be cut, as many of the trees are in their prime at a time when timber shortage is acute. Although we shall have to accustom ourselves to new outlines and a new view during our lifetime, it is good to know that the areas are to be replanted, and that later generations will know the Goldsmith plantations as we now see them.

It will also interest former members of the College to hear that the road has been made up from the village street down to Kennel Bottom cottage and the ford.

THE GAMES FIELD.

We are most grateful to Mrs. Huntley Sinclair for the gift of a further portion of the Park, beyond our present boundary, to increase the size of the Games Field. The new area, which it is hoped will be ready in September, 1950, will contain two new Football-Hockey pitches and one new Cricket pitch, giving us a total of four of the former and three of the latter, with the old second-game pitch in reserve for bad weather. This is indeed a welcome addition to our facilities, and Mrs. Sinclair and Mr. David Wills, who has been arranging for the necessary work to be done on the site, can be assured that a long-felt need will be met by the new ground. The final boundary has not yet been determined, but a survey to this end, and to give an idea of how much levelling would be necessary, was carried out by Mr. Bambury, with the assistance of Mr. Graty, C. M. Carus-Wilson, T. T. Walters, D. Henshaw, T. R. Morris, J. C. Waterton, and P. H. S. Harris. Preliminary work was done by a firm from Gloucester, who pulled down and carted away 21 trees. Although it was sad to see these go, the view has been opened up considerably, none of the trees were of particular beauty or of outstanding timber-value, and the only real disappointment is the departure of the tree under which the batting side in the Junior Game has for so long reclined in comfort! But this was necessary in order to make the best use of what is the most level portion of our total acreage, and a small price to pay for the fine Games Ground that will ultimately result. For the first time for many years the whole school will be able to play at the same time.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Summer Term, 1948.

- Duty Group Leaders**—G. H. Bye, D. J. Payne, C. M. Carus- Wilson.
Other Prefects—E. A. Jones, T. R. Morris, P. W. Sumsion, T. P. Denehy.
Work Man—C. Baillie-Lane.
Music Wardens—C. M. Carus-Wilson and P. D. Quick.
Librarians—G. H. Bye, C. M. Carus-Wilson, P. D. Quick, R. J. Kendal.
Manual Foremen—R. Gready, B. Plenderleith, J. R. S. Powell, P. W. Dutton, K. A. Statham, J. R. Smith.
Picture Man—D. Henshaw.
Stagemen—T. T. Walters, P. H. S. Harris, B. Plenderleith, P. G. Cockell, P. J. Ryman.
Deck Chairs—B. Plenderleith.
Lamp Men—R. J. Kendal, J. H. Shield.

GENERAL MEETING.

Officers, Summer Term, 1948.

Secretary—D. Henshaw. Chairman—E. A. Jones.

Cricket Captain—T. P. Denehy.

Field Secretary—G. H. Bye.

Games Committee—P. H. S. Harris, J. Gilchrist.

Tennis Captain—P. W. Sumsion.

Games Committee Treasurer—R. K. G. Bick.

House Committee Treasurer—T. R. Morris.

Banker—J. D. Painter.

Apprentice Banker—N. H. Walter.

Finance Committee Treasurer—P. W. Dutton.

Finance Committee—P. M. Gerrard, D. G. Vaisey.

Auditors—M. E. Knight, D. C. de Peyer.

Apprentice Auditors—J. W. J. Reed, F. R. Herrmann.

Senior Shopman—C. J. Brisley.

Shopmen—P. J. Ryman, D. C. de Peyer.

Almoner—G. J. Chagrin.

Entertainments Committee—D. J. Payne, P. D. Quick, P. G.

Cockell, C. D. Whittle, D. G. Vaisey.

Record Committee—C. M. Carus-Wilson, G. H. Bye, M. J.

Morgan, M. W. Brain, E. Davis.

Cycle Committee—P. J. Ryman, R. H. Jones, A. J. Paish.

Amplifier Technicians—P. G. Cockell, R. H. Jones.

Apprentice Amplifier Technician—J. R. Smith.

Drying Room Committee—M. J. Miles, P. D. de Jongh, P. M. Gerrard.

Magazine Committee—M. J. Morgan, D. Henshaw, R. J. Kendal.

Furniture Committee—C. J. Brisley, L. V. Crawford, K. A. Statham.

Paper Man—J. Gilchrist.

Breakages Man—B. G. H. Levers.

Poundman—J. Kitto.

Inspectors of Nuisances—B. G. H. Levers, B. Plenderleith. Indoor

Games Warden—J. K. Comrie.

Cricket Games Wardens—E. F. P. Topps, K. A. Statham.

Cricket Groundsman—P. H. S. Harris.

Junior Cricket Groundsman—R. H. Jones.

Cricket Secretary—P. D. Quick.

Tennis Games Wardens—M. W. Brain, M. J. Miles.

Tennis Groundsman—J. H. Shield.

Football Games Warden—A. J. Paish.

Football Secretary—R. K. G. Bick.

Hockey Games Warden—B. Plenderleith.

Hockey Secretary—J. C. Waterton.

Golf Groundsman—C. D. Whittle.

Public Work Man—T. T. Walters.

OLD BOYS' NEWS.

The O. R. Hockey match, which is reported elsewhere, was played on March 20th. The team consisted of: L. H. Hyett (Captain), H. S. Palmer, A. R. Tenty, H. W. T. Bates, B. W. Plenderleith, N. P. Elson, M. H. F. Fisher, D. M. Grant, E. B. Smith, R. A. T. J. Skelton, S. J. Curry. The following were also present: S. A. Trayhurn, J. F. Alder, R. Brain, C. E. H. Tuck, J. W. Sumsion. Several of the above were able to stay in College over the week-end.

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Apart from those who came for the Hockey match, the following O. R. s visited the College during the term: N. C. Stone, J. C. Beck, D. J. Dodwell, R. M. Lewis, W. P. Thomas, J. F. Faulks.

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C. C. Richardson writes from the West Indies, where he has visited Barbados, Trinidad, Dominica and Antigua, aboard a cadet training cruiser. He expects to be demobilised shortly after his return in April.

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J. C. Beck and F. J. Sime are now back in England and demobilised. The former is going up to Oxford.

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D. G. Knight has written from an R. A. F. station in Singapore, and M. Butler from Malta.

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We are informed that M. A. C. Levett coxed the St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, 1st boat, in the 1948 Thames "Head of the River" race.

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E. R. S. Gillham writes to say that his present address is St. Mawgan Aerodrome, Newquay, where he has opened a grassdrying-plant. If any O. R. s should be down in that part of the world on holiday, he will be pleased for them to look him up.

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G. W. Ivens is working with Agricultural Research Council at Oxford University, and is engaged on the study of specific weed killers.

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A boy at present in the College met D. D. Christie on board ship travelling to Denmark. Not realising that we have not recently received news of him, he only gathered that Christie is still teaching.

Austin Caverhill, after holding a Commission in the Army, has now been demobilised, and is going as an emigrant to Canada, where he proposes to take a degree at McGill University.

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F. H. Jones, who joined the Malayan Educational Service after coming out of the R. A. F., has just been transferred and promoted to the Headship of Clifford School, Kuala Kangsar. His son Martin is down to enter Rendcomb in 1955.

ACTING.

Spring Term, 1948.

“X = 0” by John Drinkwater.

The time is during the Trojan War. The first scene shows us two Greek friends, Pronax and Salvius. It is the duty of Pronax to go by night to the Trojan walls in search of human prey. He sets off, loathing his work and leaving Salvius the poet immersed in a book. In the second scene we see two Trojans, Ilus and Capys, together on the walls. It is the duty of Ilus to prowl round the Greek camp on a similar deadly mission. He descends the wall by a rope, feeling much as Pronax felt, and leaves Capys reciting a poem. In the midst of his verse, Capys is stabbed to the heart by Pronax who silently appears over the wall. The third scene shows us Ilus in the tent of Salvius whom he also stabs. A moment later Pronax returns and discovers Salvius dead. The last scene is silent. The body of Capys lies on the battlements. The signal of Ilus is heard from below. There is no answer. The curtain is drawn.

The production was most effective and the seriousness of the play was well reflected in a restrained and well-balanced performance. Lines were spoken clearly and thoughtfully, and the scenes of tension were acted with feeling. Particularly good was the return of Pronax and the discovery of his dead friend, and the illusion of height in the wall scene was most successful.

Although this may not have been so "popular" a play as some, it is good to see a production of this kind occasionally on the school stage.

Cast:

Pronax	...	...	...	T. P. Denehy
Salvius...		...	...	C. Baillie-Lane
Ilus...	...	...	...	G. H. Bye
Capys	...	...	...	D. Henshaw
Servant...		...	...	P. D. Quick
Sentry...	...	...	...	P. H. S. Harris

“The Duel,” by P. G. Cockell and J. Gilchrist.

Algy and Jimmy, old school friends who are both in love with the same lady, decide that a duel is the only way out of their difficulties. The decision made, it remains for them to choose their weapons. Swords are rejected as being “too messy, ” so at the suggestion of Jenkins (Algy’s “man”) they resort to cards. The game, accompanied by innumerable whisky-and-sodas and the inevitable cigarettes, leads to sentimental reflections about the lady. The tone of the conversation is at first one of unqualified rapture, but it soon becomes clear that she is not entirely free from blemish. In fact they decide, with some justification we feel, that she is not worth quarrelling about. The duel is called off and it merely remains for the two of them to make their escape by the window as Jenkins enters to announce the lady.

The dialogue was well-written and the production was not spoilt by over-acting, as is so often the case with farces of this kind. We particularly admired the setting.

Cast:

Algy...	...	... P. G. Cockell
Jimmy...	...	... J. Gilchrist
Jenkins...	...	... E. F. P. Topps

PUPPET PLAYS.

This term the Puppeteers gave another successful adaptation of a stage-play—“St. Michael comes to Shepherd’s Bush, ” by James Parish. The scene is set in the home of an English couple. The man had been in Flanders during the 1914-1918 war and after the bombardment of a cathedral had brought back with him some fragments of stained glass from a window as a souvenir. These he had put into his greenhouse and now, after many years, the Saint and the Devil visit him in order to retrieve them—for these fragments were the Saint’s spearhead and the end of the Devil’s tail. They succeed in their object but their visit has a disturbing effect upon the dull tranquillity of the household.

The American accent of St. Michael, who “felt kinda sissy” without his spearhead, and the grotesque growl of the Devil, contributed largely to the success of the play, and offset to some extent the rather too cynical humour of the dialogue. The standard of acting was again high.

The cast was as follows: —

Little Man. Actor: J. R. Smith. Speaker: C. D. Whittle. Henrietta (his wife). Actor: R. J. Bird. Speaker: D. G. Vaisey. St. Michael. Actor: J. K. Comrie. Speaker: M. D. Rayner.
The Devil. Actor: R. T. Bird. Speaker: R. W. Muchamore.

BIBLE EXHIBITION.

On Monday, March 8th, a number of boys visited the Bingham Library in Cirencester, to attend an exhibition and lantern lecture illustrating the history of the Bible.

The lecture served as an introduction to the exhibition and it took the form of a brief account of the history of the Bible from the earliest known manuscripts up to the present day. We soon realized that it was almost impossible to give a clear picture of the development of the Bible in a short space of time, but, nevertheless, the lecture helped us to appreciate the importance of each of the exhibits in this development. We learned that the Bible has been translated into no fewer than one thousand and seventy different languages. It was the first book to be printed with move-able type and the largest and smallest books ever printed are Bibles.

The Hebrew Bibles were written on goat skin scrolls and were not divided into chapters or verses. The example exhibited was one hundred and forty-five feet in length and consisted of fifty-eight goat skins sown together into a scroll. It was written in 1600, having been copied from an earlier manuscript, and was for use in the Synagogue. Among other exhibits were facsimiles of the earliest Greek manuscripts and also specimens of illuminated Latin manuscripts. There were several fragments of choir books to show the way in which monks illuminated their lettering. An addition has been made to one of the letters so that an ugly face appears in the middle of it, probably representing the choir-master as seen by a choir-boy. Thus it appears that although the choir books have changed greatly during the ages, the choir-boys themselves have changed little in character. The Poor Man's Bible, which was, in fact, a picture book for the illiterate was also shown.

There were some very beautiful exhibits of printing by Caxton, Gutenberg and Crespin, some only in facsimile, but nevertheless very beautiful. The trend of the Bible up to the reign of Henry VIII was illustrated with examples of the work of Erasmus, Tyndale, Coverdale and Taverner. Next came the "Great Bible," which was authorised in England in the reign of Henry VIII. It contained many woodcuts, the most interesting of which showed the devil, represented as a man with a wooden leg, sowing tares. The development was shown right up to the present day, the last exhibit being the version published in 1946, and we were told that new translations and revisions are still being made. Besides showing the changing character of the Bible itself, the exhibition showed the trend of printing through the ages, and it was interesting to note that the most beautifully printed books were those of the pioneers of moveable-type printing, Gutenberg, Caxton and their contemporaries.

Several Bibles have become famous on account of printers' errors or wrong translations of words. For instance, in the "Vinegar Bible" the printer's mistake reads "The Parable of the Vinegar" instead of the Vineyard. There are two famous examples of errors in translation; in one passage in the "Treacle Bible," instead of reading, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" the text reads, "Is there no treacle in Gilead?" In the second example, the "Bug Bible," instead of, "so that thou shalt not need to be afraid of any terror by night," the text reads, "So that thou shalt not need to be afraid for any bugges by night." Another point of interest was a lantern slide, which showed three Bibles and three New Testaments placed in a tablespoon.

After hearing how some of the valuable exhibits had been purchased at fantastically low prices in small out-of-the-way bookshops we left, each determined to look for a shop of this nature in which he might search for some treasure of literature that might be hidden upon its shelves.

LECTURE.

On March 4th, W. J. Willets, O. R., gave a lecture on Chinese pagodas. With the aid of lantern slides, he first described the only pagoda which he himself had actually seen—William Chambers' pagoda at Kew—and then explained how, though it had many purely native characteristics and uses, the pagoda's origins were to be found in the Indian Stupa. This was originally used as a resting place for Buddha's relics, but later became more a shrine or altar. With the spread of Buddhism to China, it gradually took on more general, and even secular uses; but its architectural features—a terraced base, a dome, a plinth, surmounted by a series of protecting "umbrellas"—can still be seen in the pagoda, though opinion is divided as to whether it's typical roofed divisions are developments of the protecting "umbrellas"—or phineal—of the terraces at the base of the Stupa.

The evolution of the form of the pagoda was, for us, the most interesting part of the lecture—showing how native tradition became fused with foreign influence and reached its aesthetic climax in the porcelain tower at Peking and the pagoda of Chin Chan. The slides showed clearly the persistence of the original Buddhist features against great changes in appearance and function: we commend their choice as much for this reason, as for their individual charm. Mr. Willets also dealt with the connection between pagodas and Chinese folk-lore: a well-placed tower could control the elements, or prevent a junk shaped town floating down stream; two pagodas represented the equilibrium between the male and female principles, three represented Buddha himself, the law and the congregation.

Throughout the lecture we got the impression of the timelessness of Chinese history: the evolution of the pagoda has been more natural and uninterrupted than any parallel development in Western civilization. Moreover a few outlines of Chinese architecture and folklore indicated the great limitation of the Western mind to Western forms and ideas. Indeed we would venture the criticism that this lecture dealt with rather too narrow an aspect of a great subject, of which most of us know far too little. But we did like the delivery of the talk, which was fresh, and easy flowing.

This was a rare occasion, for it is very seldom that old boys honour us with their knowledge and experiences—that is, from the lecture platform, for we remember many good stories told in hall, classroom or study! And we hope it goes without saying that we would like Mr. Willets and other O. R. s to make the occasion less rare.

EXCURSION.

On February 25th, about twenty members of the school visited Swindon Railway Works. The journey was made by coach and a guide conducted us round the various departments.

We began by visiting the "Tender Shop," containing old locomotives that were being broken up or repaired. Then we passed on to a machine shop, where several men were cleaning up crosshead castings on planing and milling machines. Down the side of this room some ingenious, though somewhat archaic, automatic lathes were turning out hundreds of mild steel boiler-rivets.

Next we came to the iron foundry, where castings for brake-shoes and fire-bars were being made. It was rather disconcerting here to turn round and find a workman with a huge "ladle" full of molten steel walking behind us.

One of the most interesting places was the wheel shop which, besides wheels of all sizes, contained such relics as the "North Star," built in 1837 by R. Stephenson and Co., altered at Swindon in 1854, and finally withdrawn from service in 1870.

The boiler shop impressed us all, if only on account of the noise of the riveting hammers. When riveting a boiler, one man holds a heavy sledge-hammer against the outside end of the rivet, while another flattens the inside end with a pneumatic hammer.

The next machine shop was devoted to machining slide-bar and connecting-rod forgings. Then came the rolling mills, where white-hot ingots are rolled to shape and then sawn off in lengths while still hot. Another impressive machine was the large steam hammer which was being used for forging connecting-rods. The operator demonstrated his skill by closing a match-box placed on the anvil without crushing it.

Taking everything into consideration, we had an interesting afternoon, although I personally would have preferred more time in the works. The expedition would have been more pleasant with no guide at all, or with one who knew more about the processes involved in making a modern locomotive.

LAWN TENNIS LECTURE.

On Wednesday, March 18th, in the afternoon, Major A. E. Millman and Capt. D. R. Bocquet, gave an interesting talk and demonstration on tennis.

As there had been a heavy fall of rain overnight, the lecture started in the gymnasium in order to allow the front tennis court to dry out.

The main points of Major Millman's talk were that all would-be players must have enthusiasm for the game, and must endeavour to play and practice the correct strokes whenever possible. Compared to that of many other countries, the standard of men's tennis in England is not high, and this is chiefly due to the lack of opportunity for good coaching and practice: in America, for instance, promising players are taken in hand and fully trained and coached. However, if a player is keen and can master the correct footwork and strokes, practice of these will help his game greatly.

Major Millman then explained the correct stances and racket grips for the forehand and backhand strokes. He stressed the need for the combination of footwork and strokes as each is dependent on the other. He explained and showed how to serve, taking full advantage of one's height and power. A combination of power and ease is what is wanted in these strokes, and they must not be jerky, but should have a smoothness and follow through. As in all games, the ball must be carefully and properly watched.

Major Millman and Captain Bocquet then demonstrated these points, and although they were rather confined by the space of the Gymnasium, they impressed their audience with their skill and power.

After an adjournment for tea, the school "swung racquets" on the Asphalt, and tried out the correct strokes under the watchful eyes of the lecturers. Finally, they played several games of tennis on the front court; it was very interesting to see in action two players of such high competence. Their talk and demonstration was enjoyed by the school: they have opened up new prospects for our tennis, and we thank them for an interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

MUSIC MAKING.

The programme for the School Music-Making, held in the Music Room on Sunday, March 14th, was as follows:

Choir: "Drink to me Only." Descant by G. Shaw.

Piano Solo (J. Harrison): Study in C minor. Burgmuller.

Piano Duet (S. and H. Richards): Waltz. Schubert.

Piano Solo (J. Comrie): Three Sea Pieces. Joan Last.

Piano Solo (M. D. Richards): "Over the Hills." Robin McLachlan.

'Cello Solo (J. Kitto): Sonata in C. 1st mvt. J. B. Breval.

Piano Solo (K. Statham): Study in A minor). Heller.

Piano Solo (P. de Longh): Prelude in C minor. Pachulski.

Unison Songs (Forms I and II): "Where'er you walk." Handel.

"The Evening Prayer." Folk Song.

Piano Solo (P. D. Quick): "From Foreign Lands." Schumann. Piano

Solo (C. B. Lane): "A March Wind." Swinstead.

Piano Solo (T. R. Morris): Sonata in C minor op. 13. 2nd mvt.

Beethoven.

Songs (Upper VI and Via): "The Two Grenadiers." Schumann.

"England". Owen Mase.

Piano Solo (P. W. Sumsion): "Le Pastour." Grovlez.

Piano Solo (C. M. Carus-Wilson): Arabesque No. 1. Debussy. Choir:

"Lord, Beholding." J. S. Bach. Opening Chorus from "St. Luke Passion."

J. S. Bach.

ENTERTAINMENTS—EASTER TERM, 1948.

The predominant official entertainment at Rendcomb at the moment is ballroom dancing. It is indulged in mainly by the upper part of the school, though, sad to say, very few of the Juniors dance at all; but no doubt their time will come. The popularity of Miss Elston's dancing classes accounts largely for this enthusiasm for dancing. Dances were held on all Saturdays of the term but one. The attendance was very good, between thirty and forty people usually being present; and frequently extensions were appreciated. On two occasions prizes were given for "elimination" and "card" dances. In addition, dancing practices were held once a week. The attendance at these was not as good as we had expected; but on occasions there was quite a crowd, and there were always the few enthusiastic habituals who kept the ball rolling. The Quickstep, Waltz and Slow Foxtrot are our most perfected dances. The experts are perfecting the Rumba and the Tango. There is also general popularity for a number of old-time dances. Miss Elston kindly presented the Meeting with an old-time Paul Jones record that has since been well used.

On Saturday evenings members of Form I, II and III have shown great enthusiasm for Junior Games. This entertainment had died out in recent terms, but it showed a great revival this term, the old games of "Musical Chairs," "Blind Man's Buff" and "O'Grady," all being played with enjoyment.

Another entertainment that was held frequently was "Fire and Stories" in the library on Friday evenings. Mr. Bambury, Mr. Tidy, Mr. Thackray, Mr. Austin, and Mr. Graty, all read stories of different kinds that were well received by the group of non-choristers who were present on these evenings.

Football in the gym retained its popularity, but "Release" has passed out of vogue, "French and English" taking its place on Monday evenings.

On Tuesday, March 9th, a "Miming Party" was held in Big School between 8 and 9. 15 in the evening. All those present enjoyed the evening immensely. There was no lack of performers, members of all parts of the school trying their luck. The stage contained only a table and some chairs, performers having to portray their acts in silence without any other properties. During the evening a large variety of mimes were presented and scenes from all spheres of Rendcomb life were included—P. T., Choir Practice, P. W., the giving out of allowances, and of two delinquents caught smoking, and being dealt with by an amiable, "duffle-coated" Headmaster. The Headmaster and Mr. Molineaux performed, and we were delighted by mimes of a cat and dog feud, of a jazz band, of Mr. Austin bowling, of a schoolmaster in difficulties with his class, and many other acts of equal merit.

The one Whist Drive held during the term was much enjoyed; the only complaint being that time was too short. The popularity of Whist Drives as opposed to Dancing is questionable, but we feel that occasionally the minority should be catered for.

A "Banging Party" was held in the gym on February 4th. People fought each other; blindfolded with sacks stuffed with newspaper, wrestled on the "greasy pole" and hurled tennis balls at tins. A good time was had by most participants.

The popularity of table-tennis has been contested by the craze for billiards, caused by the recently presented billiard table. But there were plenty of players taking part in the two table-tennis tournaments which were arranged.

A piano recital given by Mr. Thackray in the Music Room on Thursday, February 19th, was very much appreciated. It consisted mainly of works by early composers.

Only two plays were performed this term: "X = 0" by John Drinkwater, acted by members of the sixth form, and "The Duel," by members of Form V. Reports of these appear elsewhere.

Term ended with the traditional Sing-Song before House Prayers on Tuesday, March 23rd.

ATHLETICS.

There has been considerable enthusiasm for running amongst the juniors and the large entry of seventeen for the Junior Lodges race is probably a record. Standards of performance in both senior and junior events were higher than they have been for many years and both winners were very near to breaking the records.

The junior race was run on March 8th, under moderate conditions. De Peyer won comfortably from Reed, closely followed by R. A. Powell. The next six runners were all close and there were several exciting finishes.

The result was as follows: —

1. D. C. de Peyer. 14 min. 34 secs.
2. J. W. J. Reed. 15 min. 45 secs.
3. R. A. Powell. 15 min. 49 secs.
4. C. D. Whittle. 16 min. 10 secs.
5. P. L. Waite. 16 min. 32 secs.
6. R. W. Alder. 16 min. 34 secs.

In the Senior event, run on March, 12th, there were six starters. The first four, Morgan, Morris, Payne and Jones were all level as far as the Cirencester Lodge and it was only in the last quarter of a mile that Morgan drew away from Morris to win by 10 seconds. Payne beat Jones for third place.

Result: —

1. M. J. Morgan. 13 min. 52 secs.
2. T. R. Morris. 14 min. 1 sec.
3. D. G. Payne. 14 min. 45 secs.
4. E. A. Jones. 14 min. 55 secs.
5. G. J. Chagrin. 15 min. 40 secs.
6. M. E. Knight. 17 min. 50 secs.

Enquiries are constantly being made about the school records for these events and the following have been verified: —

Senior Lodges: 13 min. 10 secs, by R. C. Walters (1932).

Junior Lodges: 14 min. 21 ²/₅th secs, by A. C. Wager (1928).

North Cerney: 22 min. 11 secs, by J. C. Maslin (1931).

Thanks to the good weather, we were able to start training on the Athletics pitch at the beginning of March. The cinder-track is by no means in perfect condition yet, but it is being used. There are several promising performers in most of the field events.

HOCKEY, 1948.

The weather this year was favourable for most of the season, and it was possible to make a good start at the beginning of the term. Only two 1st XI fixtures and an under 16 XI had to be cancelled on account of snow.

Apart from a bad patch on the first pitch due to moles, the pitches were in fair condition throughout the term, and the groundsman did a fine job of work in keeping them rolled.

The Headmaster and Mr. Tidy refereed and coached the 1st and 2nd games and Mr. Thackray put in a lot of work with the 3rd game. We are very grateful to them.

The standard of the first game was good and we had some fast open hockey. A number of people played in fresh positions this year, in some cases with very pleasing results, and there was much keenness shown by those who were playing regularly in this game for the first time.

The 1st XI had an enjoyable season, playing Cirencester Hockey Club and the Royal Agricultural College for the first time. A Lydney Grammar School match was also played for the first time since the beginning of the war. This was a very good game and we are looking forward to playing them again next season. We also had good matches with Cheltenham College and Dean Close. There the flat pitches added considerably to the enjoyment of the game. The Old Boys' match, played on the last Saturday of term, was perhaps the most enjoyable fixture of the whole season, and made a good finish to a good term's hockey.

Hartley played well in goal apart from a brief period near the end of term, but he refound his form for the last match and made some very good saves. Bye, playing at right back, was the mainstay of the defence. He has speed, a good tackle, clears well up the wing and this reliability improved as the season went on. Shield played well at left back and should be a very useful member of the team next season. Morris played a hard game at left-half, but he is rather slow and should get rid of the ball sooner. Crawford as centre-half played a sound game and improved considerably through the term. He frequently got us out of a tight corner in the circle, from where his clearing to the forwards was good. His midfield positioning and interception should improve as he grows stronger and gains experience. E. A. Jones also played in this position early in the term. Harris P., played a varied game at right-half, but he should tackle his opponent more often when there is good cause to do so. Denehy was extremely fast on the left wing and he made some good passes to the inside forwards. His ball control however tended to be rather shaky. Sumsion P., played well at inside-left; he understands the position and has a good shot. Brain playing at inside-right also has a good shot, but

he was rather slow and careless in his passing. Davis on the right wing was fast, but should pass the ball sooner and more often and should tackle harder and with more determination. Lane at centre- forward played good strong hockey and showed marked development on his performance last year. Building the side was not an easy task and he got valuable experience of captaincy in the process. Off the field he might have been better served by the secretary and cheerfully did a good deal of this officer's work. Morris as field secretary did a good job.

Altogether it was a good and enjoyable season.

HOCKEY MATCHES, 1948.

First XI.

Feb. 14th. —Cheltenham College. Away. Lost 1—4.

Feb. 18th. —Dean Close 2nd XI. Away. Won 3—1.

Mar. 6th. —Hanley Castle. Home. Won 4—0.

Mar. 10th. —Lydney Grammar School. Away. Lost 5—3.

Mar. 13th. —Cirencester Hockey Club. Away. Lost 2—0.

Mar. 20th. —Old Rendcombians. Home. Won 4—2.

“A” XI.

Feb. 7th. —Royal Agricultural College. Away. Lost 1—4.

Under 16½ XI.

Feb. 7th. —Cheltenham College. Home. Drawn 5—5.

Average 15 XI.

Jan. 24th. —King's School, Sherborne. Away. Won 6—1.

Feb. 28th. —Dean Close. Away. Won 4—1.

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 pupillari, " of adults or of enthusiasts, differ widely from each other.