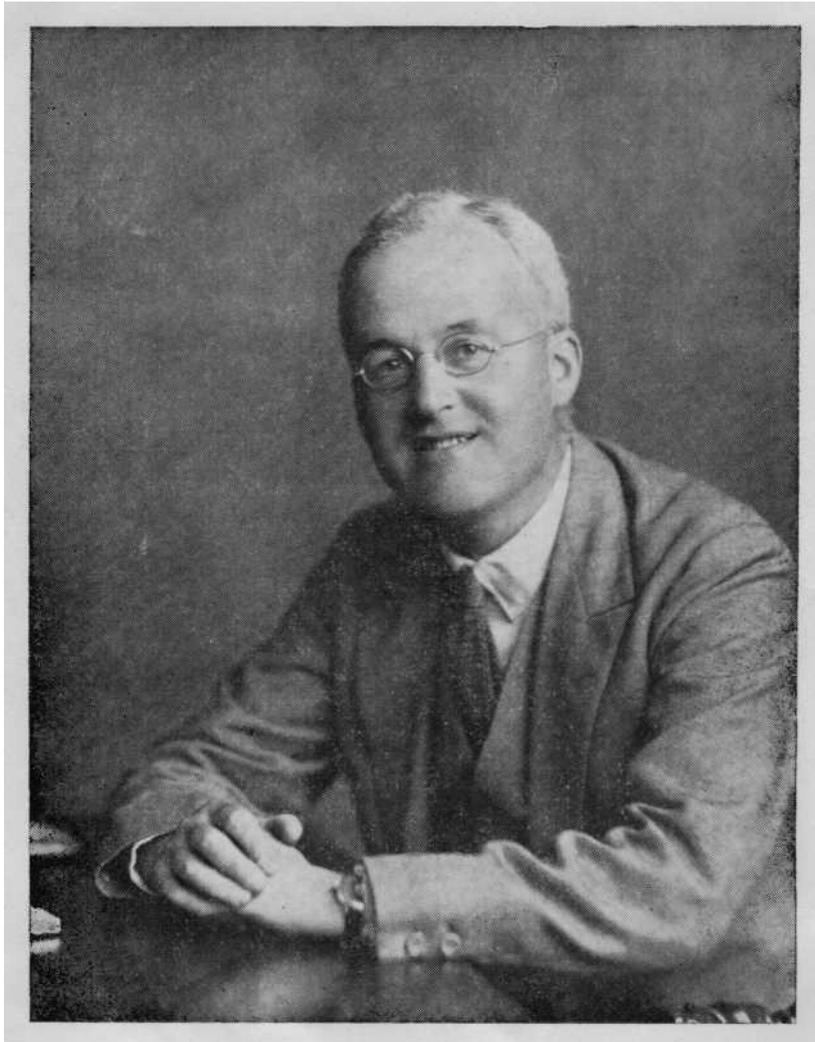


Rendcomb College Chronicle

Vol 11, No. 9.

JULY, 1959



**This number of the Chronicle is dedicated to
the memory of**

James Herbert Simpson

1883-1959

**First Headmaster of Rendcomb College
1920-1932**

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CONTENTS.

	Page
College Diary	3
Obituary	4
School Notes	12
College Officers	13
Meeting Officers	14
General Meeting Notes	16
Old Boys' Notes	16
Hockey	17
Lodges Race.....	20
Natural History Supplement..	20

We regret the considerable delay in publishing this issue of the Chronicle owing to the printing dispute not being resolved until the middle of the Summer holidays.

COLLEGE DIARY

January

14. —Term begins.

February

4. —1st XI v. Bristol University 3rd XI. Away.

11. —2nd XI v. King's School, Gloucester. Home.

Under 14 XI v. King's School, Gloucester under 15 XI. Home

14. —1st XI v. King Edward's, Bath 1st XI. Home.

Under 15 XI v. King Edward's, Bath, Junior Colts. Home.

16-20. —School Examinations.

18. —1st XI v. Prince Henry's Grammar School 1st XI. Away.

2nd XI v. Prince Henry's Grammar School 2nd XI. Away.

21. —1st XI v. Marlborough College 2nd XI. Away.

2nd XI v. Marlborough College Colts. Away.

Under 15 XI v. Marlborough College Junior Colts. Away.

23. —A party visits "The Taming of the Shrew" at Bristol.

28. —1st XI v. Exeter College, Oxford, 1st XI. Away.

March

4. —A party goes to Oxford to see "The Bartered Bride."

14. —1st XI v. Bristol Grammar School 1st XI. Away.

Under 15 XI v. Bristol Grammar School Junior Colts. Away.

A "Grand Dance" is held.

18. —A party sees "Rigoletto" at Stratford-on-Avon.

21. —1st XI v. Old Rendcombians. Home.

23. —The Lodges Race.

25. —Term ends.

Obituary

James Herbert Simpson (1883-1959).

James Herbert Simpson was the son of J. H. Simpson, M. D., of Rugby. In 1897 he entered Rugby School, "one of the greatest of all English schools," as he wrote later, "at an especially interesting period in its history and that of the public schools as a whole," since they were "for the time being comparatively immune from criticism." He reached the Sixth with two years to run, was "unwise enough to do as little regular work as I could," but read widely out of school and became an Exhibitioner and Scholar of Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he took a good "Second" in Classics in 1905, followed a year later by a "First" in Part II of the Historical Tripos.

At Rugby, the teaching of C. P. Hastings awoke a lifelong interest in modern history and contemporary affairs, and, among schoolfellows, Geoffrey Scott, the future author of "The Architecture of Humanism" and "The Portrait of Zelide," "challenged countless ideas and conventions" hitherto taken for granted and, by his "unmalicious irreverence, provided just the salt that the rather complacent Rugby life of that time needed." Here, too, J. H. S. experienced "the keen enjoyment of making certain discoveries" for himself—the "Odyssey," Plato and the "Hippolytus." To the end of his life he kept up his reading of the classics in the Loeb editions. The ideal of "Christian humanism," despite all the limitations of its expression at Rugby fifty years ago, was an influence whose significance was to increase for him with the years.

So far, however, there seems to have been little in a traditional upbringing to account for the development of the "forward-looking teacher—one of those who during the first three decades of the present century led the way in transforming school curricula and methods, and, more important, improving greatly relations between pupils and teachers." (The "Times" obituary notice.) But three formative experiences were to follow and to contribute much to his headmastership at Rendcomb: Gresham's School, Holt, where (after some temporary teaching at Clifton and Charterhouse) J. H. S. was for eight terms as master under G. W. S. Howson; two years as a Junior Inspector of the Board of Education (1911-12); and the many visits paid to Homer Lane's Little Commonwealth between 1914 and 1917. And these experiences came to, and were indeed partly sought by, one who was by nature receptive to new ideas, but never ridden

by a theory, ready to follow the argument to its conclusion, but always re-thinking and testing his convictions.

What Simpson brought to Rendcomb from Gresham's may perhaps be expressed in the phrase of Noel Wills who singled out as the characteristic of Rendcomb boys, "their naturalness." For, at Gresham's, Howson had, to a degree then unique in public schools, abolished unnecessary rules and penalties, freed boys from restrictive customs and conventions, and revealed what the ordinary boy who was neither athlete nor scholar could achieve, if given opportunities for individual growth and emotional development through a "modern" curriculum, an atmosphere of trust and friendly relations between staff and pupils, and the encouragement of the arts and of out-of-school interests.

During his first year as a Junior Inspector, spent at Bolton, in Lancashire, Simpson saw, against the background of middle class Rugby and the "gracious and happy" life of Gresham's, something of the grim realities of elementary schools and teachers still dominated by the traditions of "payment by results" and the "two nations." At the same time he discovered in some of the infant schools the beginnings of the better ways proclaimed in a book which he described as "a turning point" in his own education—Edmond Holmes' "What Is And What Might Be."

The most radical challenge to orthodoxy and a direct influence upon Rendcomb came from the Little Commonwealth, a "self-governing" community of delinquent boys and girls in Dorset. From the Commonwealth were derived the idea of the Rendcomb "General Meeting" and the belief that to give "a solid basis of reality" to experiments in educational "self-government," this "group freedom" or "collective responsibility" of the pupils required a system of school economics. The General Meeting, responsible, through its committees and elected officers, for a good deal of the out-of-the-classroom life of the College, including expenditure out of the taxes voted by the Meeting, and the control of the school bank and shop, was a modification of the arrangements at the Commonwealth. Much else at Rendcomb was no doubt inspired by Homer Lane's personality. The words one man uses of another often suggest something of his own qualities, and Lane Simpson described as "the man, who, more than anyone whom I have known among educators, loved those among whom he worked with absolute unselfishness, without favour or sentimentality, and made them feel that, whatever they might do, he would still understand their actions and motives, and continue to love them none the less."

In 1913 Simpson, who had already known Rugby both as day boy and boarder, returned to his old school to see it from the new aspect of an assistant master (1913-19) and under the reforming influence of its headmaster, A. A. David. Here, Simpson, in one of the lower forms, tried out a limited measure of "self-government," based, in lieu of an economic system, upon collective marking and a collective reward for the form. He described the experiment in "An Adventure In Education" (Sidgwick and Jackson, 1917). Noel Wills read the book and liked it so well that he wrote to the author, shortly after J. H. S. was demobilised from the army, with the result that in the autumn of 1919 Simpson was appointed to be the first headmaster of the College. Those who knew the two men will know how much of Rendcomb today is still due to the happy blending of character and ideals of the Founder and first headmaster, and to the qualities of faith, courage and humility which they both possessed.

Of Simpson, Noel Wills, in an article for the "English Review" (June 1924), wrote: "The headmaster moves through the school, not as a group of 'subjects,' nor as a stalking Nemesis, but as an intimate personal friend to every boy, understanding and sharing the interests of each, and, above all, showing the boys how to understand themselves, their duties to themselves and to each other, as good fellow-citizens... in the atmosphere of frankness, free discussion, and ready sympathy which he has created."

The Founder's untimely death in 1927, "seven years after we started," Simpson felt as a personal loss of "one of the most gracious and loveable personalities that I have ever known," whose "kindness as a friend and counsellor" was shown "not least in the great freedom which he gave me in directing the school."

In 1921 J. H. S. married Evelyn, daughter of William Creaser, of York. (She died after a long illness in 1958.) Their daughters, Mary and Jennifer, were born at Rendcomb, and many of the Rendcomb boys and later the students of the College of St. Mark and St. John, recall with gratitude the contribution to their education afforded by the generous way in which they were allowed to witness and share in a happy family life. "As far as one Old Rendcombian is concerned," writes one of the first twelve pupils, "it is not possible to dissociate James Simpson from Evelyn Simpson. The partnership was absolutely right for us. Just why, I don't know, but he knew it was right and so did we."

When, on leaving Rendcomb, Simpson became Principal of the College of St. Mark and St. John, Chelsea, this was a natural development of his interest in national education and of his experience at Rendcomb. This is not the place to write of his twelve years at Chelsea (1932-44), nor has the time probably come to assess the influence of his work there and in other ways upon the post-war renaissance of English training colleges. While he was in London, he and Evelyn kept open house for Old Rendcombians, and many of his old boys continued to look to him for wise and kindly counsel and to rejoice in his letters and conversation. He was the first President of the O. R. Society and a regular attender at the London and West of England dinners.

The strain of the war years on Mrs. Simpson's health made it necessary for J. H. S. to find work which could be carried on partly from a home in the country. He was Dean of the College of Preceptors from 1952 to 1957, breathing new life into what had become a somewhat moribund institution. At Cranham he entered energetically into village life and into educational work in Gloucestershire as governor of schools in Stroud, and chairman of the County Drama Committee. For the Birmingham Institute of Education he visited the City of Coventry and other training colleges.

From 1933 to 1939 he was a member of the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education, taking part in the preparation of the Spens Report. From 1939 he was chairman of the governing body of the Battersea Grammar and Sir Walter St. John schools. In 1952 a dinner in his honour was given by former colleagues and pupils from Gresham's, Rugby and Rendcomb, at the College of St. Mark and St. John, with Professor Lester Smith in the chair.

J. H. S. was widely read in history, religion, psychology, politics and English literature. He regretted an inability to appreciate music and much of modern poetry since Meredith. He was an excellent talker and speaker and an indefatigable letter writer. A critic of the cult of athleticism, he retained an interest in games and admitted belonging to "the weaker brethren who turn to the sporting pages of the paper before reading the news." His books have a freshness unusual in writing about education because they come "straight from school life." Two of them will live as contributions to the history of English education—"Howson of Holt" (Sidgwick and Jackson, 1925) and "Schoolmaster's Harvest" (Faber, 1954). The latter, "arranged on a partly autobiographical pattern," discusses the

purposes underlying, and the means by which it was sought to realise the aims, of a variety of places of residential education with which Simpson had been connected (the schools, the Little Commonwealth, and the “training college—old style”). Schools he saw as conditioned by, as well as re-acting on, social and historical forces, and education as an expression of a philosophy of life. The great weakness of education today was its “lack of agreed purpose.”

J. H. S. was an idealist, endowed with an almost equal capacity for belief and scepticism. An “artist in school life,” he had an intuitive understanding of and sympathy with young men and women. His unusually clear vision of the strength and weakness of individuals and institutions was balanced by a warmth of feeling for what was best in them, and by a gentle and unfailing sense of humour. His incisive judgment of a friend could be startling, but was always immediately followed by affectionate and kindly words. He had a genius for friendship.

“He made one feel,” writes an O. R., “that one was a special friend. I expect he made everyone feel that—and he meant it.”

C. H. C. Osborne
(Staff, 1920-25).

Although Mr. J. H. Simpson, the first Headmaster of Rendcomb, was in his middle seventies when he died one never had the feeling that he had an ageing mind. He brought a constructive intellect to bear on school-mastering such as is very rare. Schools and teaching, moreover, provoked in him a sense of craftsmanship or artistry with all the intuitional flair that is second nature to the man who lives within his art. He had also the detachment of the real artist, so that although he minded passionately about the problems before him he did not identify himself inescapably with a particular cause or feel that his own prestige was linked with the attainment of any one solution or end. So he was able to feel change, to live with it, become part of it, to speak naturally at any moment as one of those who was moving forward with appropriate idiom and methods to deal with new circumstances and, except when he found himself confronted with an almost complete lack of taste, he never regretted the excellence of the best that he had known in the past.

I knew J. H. Simpson at Rendcomb for only two years, though after that it was always a major pleasure to meet him or to get a letter from him. I joined the staff just when those of the very first entry to the College, who had stayed on for

Sixth Form work, were beginning the last year of their course, so that it was a time when Simpson could take stock of the first stage of his achievement and it seemed to me, perhaps because of this, that it was a time when his mind worked most richly and his wit and inventiveness were most acute. Those two years were for me not only intensely interesting, they were also happy and very entertaining, for the expression in the wittiest terms of a remarkable sense of humour was one of Simpson's most developed gifts.

The warm humanity of Rendcomb was something from which, if they wished, members of staff as well as boys could profit. I think of it as a community in which masters were just senior members, and to all if they wanted it Simpson was always ready to give carefully thought-out advice, both on school and personal problems. But there was no sentimentality. I once expressed the opinion that a certain section of the school would benefit from the departure of a particular boy and I was told that anyone—or was it any fool—could teach the easy pupil but that it took a schoolmaster to handle X.

It is probably difficult now to recapture the unusual freshness of Simpson's attitude towards discipline and the relation of boys and masters in the period just after the first World War. Rendcomb was one of the pioneer schools from which a revolutionary change in the attitude towards personal freedom has spread with varying degrees of conviction over the whole educational system. It did pioneering work also in another way. While I think that in the very young school I knew there were hardly any boys who had come in order to get temperamental difficulties cleared up in a sympathetic school environment, Simpson was quite clear that, once a boy had entered Rendcomb, the school and he himself must, cost what it might, stand by the boy if any serious problem should ever arise. In this attitude he was much influenced by what he had learnt from Homer Lane. It was, of course, a mark of his originality that from his background at Rugby he should have been a frequent visitor in the years before the war to what was then the astonishing experiment of the Little Commonwealth. Behind all his thought on education in the years that I knew Rendcomb were two major principles which seem to me, if deeply understood, irrefutably true whatever the time. On many occasions I heard Simpson say in one way or another that if one could get a boy to develop a confident attitude to authority and a sense of deep immersion in reality the greater part of the schoolmaster's purpose was achieved.

N. B. C. Lucas
(Staff, 1925-27).

The news of the death of Mr. Simpson (“Jimmy,” as he was affectionately known to the early generations of Rendcombians) came as a great shock to his circle of friends. That circle was a very large one because he went through life making friends and keeping them. Wherever he was, or whenever he had an hour or two to spare, he would arrange to see one of them. He wrote to them regularly and never owed a letter. He knew all about them, took an interest in their lives and was ready, in time of need, to extend to them sympathy and to give them wise counsel.

The result was that, during his later years, he had become a truly patriarchal figure, to whom a large coterie paid homage. And yet to describe him thus is, in some measure, to draw a caricature; for he never looked patriarchal (indeed he always looked young for his years) and he certainly did not allow his mind to dwell in the past. To the very end his mind was as keen and fresh as it must have been when he was a boy at Rugby, an undergraduate at Cambridge.

Although he moved with the times, often as not being one jump ahead, his approach to life remained always Christian and, for want of a better word, liberal and idealist. He never lost sight of the individual. Hence for him all institutions or administrative arrangements must be judged in the light of their contribution to the spiritual welfare of all persons concerned. Indeed, they must give to the individual freedom in its fullest sense, that is to say, the real desire for, and the conditions suitable for, the good and full life.

Elsewhere in these columns, others better qualified than I, assess Mr. Simpson’s work in the field of educational theory and practice—and his bold venture at Rendcomb. Here I write as one of his old pupils who became a lifelong friend, as one of those devotees who paid him homage and who found his company and conversation so refreshing, indeed invigorating. His knowledge was profound and easily carried; his store of anecdote extensive and amusing; his ideas vivid and beautifully expressed. Always a great reader on a wide range of topics, he had the habit of learning much from those with whom he conversed. He loved conversation and he had the gift of making others talk to him. He could converse with people from all walks of life, for the simple reason that he found people interesting. But, much as he loved to talk himself, he never monopolised the conversation; he never preached to or harangued his listeners; but he would question them in the truly Socratic

manner and then throw out his own suggestions. He was never arrogant and never overbearing, but possessed a perfect sense of proportion and (what is much the same thing) the saving grace of humour.

He was often at his best when serving on committees. Taking care to study the relevant problems beforehand and to master his facts, he would listen carefully to what others said; and then with great economy of words, with a lucid and pleasant diction, he would put his point of view in a way so logical that all further discussion became superfluous. These same qualities came out in all he did—in his teaching, in his writings, in his public lectures, and in his after-dinner speeches, of which many Old Rendcombians will have so pleasant memories.

Mr. Simpson was a man of great charm, a fine citizen and a constant friend. He lived the good life and the full life, and he was a shining example to all who had the great privilege of knowing him. Now that he has gone, there is a great void in many of our lives.

D. Dakin, at Rendcomb 1920-27.

The funeral was at Cranham Church on Wednesday, March 4th, 1959. The service was conducted by the Rev. H. S. Hutchinson, rector of the parish, assisted by the Rev. W. A. Moulton, Chaplain of the College of St. Mark and St. John, Chelsea.

In addition to members of his own family, members of Cranham village and representatives from a number of Gloucestershire public bodies and organisations, the following people connected with Rendcomb were able to be present: Mrs. Huntly Sinclair (also representing the Governors), Mrs. D. W. Lee-Browne, Dr. F. C. Gladstone, Mr. J. C. James (Senior Master), Mr. C. H. C. Osborne (Staff, 1920-25), together with the following Old Rendcombians, J. E. Allen, J. C. Maslin, K. J. Morgan, F. Nevel, N. A. Perkins, H. T. G. Price, F. C. Raggatt, W. F. Smallwood, D. C. Terrett, A. C. Wager (representing C. Eyles and W. N. Durham). Owing to illness the Headmaster was unable to be present.

A Memorial Service was held in the Chapel of the College of St. Mark and St. John, Chelsea, on June the 6th, 1959. It was attended by rather over 50 people representing most stages of his varied career.

School Notes

Easter Term, 1959.

We are very glad to report that at the time of going to press (late June) the Headmaster is making excellent progress. Despite a complication, unconnected with the original trouble, which necessitated a return to hospital in April, he is up and about, walking in the grounds and driving his car for short distances. Though he still has to be careful not to over-exert himself, he is looking very well and hopes to be back to normal in September.

* * * *

We are indeed grateful to Lord Dulverton for arranging for his Estate Workshop to double the size of the Honours Board in the Outer Hall. The work was excellently done and the board should now last for at least another 20 years.

* * * *

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the following gifts:

From Mr. and Mrs. R. J. M. Merrett the following Batsford books, which will fulfil a long-felt need in the Library. We are indeed grateful for their generosity. They are as follows: West of England, Midland England, Lowlands of Scotland, Highlands of Scotland, Cambridge, Oxford, Lincoln and The Fens, Italy, France, Everyday Things in England, The Tudors, The Stuarts, Villages, Abbeys and Priors, Scottish Border Country, Wessex. Also History of the World (Davies), Victorian England (2 vols.), Johnson's England (2 vols.), The English Parish Church, and the Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs.

From Edward Webster, O. R., whose gift has enabled us to buy "A Physical, Social and Economic Survey of Gloucestershire" by Gordon E. Payne, for the Library.

From Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Alder a cheque which has been spent, at their request, on music for the orchestra. Scores and parts of various works have been purchased.

From J. H. W. Neads, R. N., O. R., a large box of most useful second-hand books of wide variety.

* * * *

Work on the power cables in the Back Drive was completed during the term. Advantage was taken of the opportunity to make certain technical improvements.

Vale: We offer our good wishes to R. J. Wynne.

* * * *

It was announced during term that the Reverend J. H. Hart, vicar of Tollington, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, had accepted the livings of Rendcomb and Colesbourne and that he was to be inducted by the Bishop of Gloucester on Wednesday, May the 13th.

* * * *

We welcome Mr. A. J. Wills who has joined the staff for two terms to help with the teaching of English and History with the Junior Forms and to take over Junior and Middle School P. T.

We also welcome Mrs. Margot Jeens who has joined the visiting Music Staff to teach 'cello and double bass.

COLLEGE OFFICERS.

Summer, 1959,

Senior Prefect—R. D. Comley.

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

Prefects—M. van den Driessche, J. B. Gooch, R. A. Cockrell.

College Workman—M. D. Naish.

†Public Workman—S. D. Hicks.

Music Warden—G. Harrison.

Music Librarian—L. de V. Wragg.

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

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

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

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

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

Choir Librarians—R. C. Jones, R. A. D. B. Laws, G. C. Cattermole.

† Furniture Committee—J. R. Windsor, R. J. Parnell, R. J. Hayes.

Pictureman—G. Harrison.

Collections and Deck Chairs—G. J. Taylor.

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

Q. P. Concerts—I. S. C. Airey.
Notices—D. A. Hodges, C. J. Webb.
Church Ushers—M. van den Driessche, J. B. Gooch.
† General Meeting Elections.

MEETING OFFICERS.

Summer, 1959.

Chairman—P. G. S. Airey.
Games Captain—R. A. Cockrell.
Secretary—D. A. Hodges.
Field Secretary—R. F. Stebbing.
Games Committee—H. E. Gough, R. D. Comley.
Tennis Captain—M. D. Naish.
Boys' Banker—G. Harrison.
Meeting Banker—D. R. Poole.
Senior Shopman—M. Whittering.
House Committee Treasurer—J. C. Malpass.
Record Committee Treasurer—P. K. Dale.
Finance Committee Treasurer—R. B. Denny.
Auditors—P. G. S. Airey, M. van den Driessche.
Entertainments Committee—J. Shaw, R. Bolton-King, P. B. Heppleston,
C. B. Stillwell.
Cycle Committee—G. J. Taylor, N. J. Price, T. G. W. Pettigrew.
Shopmen—S. H. M. Creffield, R. A. D. B. Laws.
Classical Record Committee—G. Harrison, R. A. Dauncey, M. Whittering.

Amplifier Technicians—R. A. Dauncey, T. L. H. Benbow.
Financial Advisory Committee—J. R. Windsor, R. A. Dauncey, I. S. C. Airey.
Assistant Cricket Groundsman—J. M. Webb.
Games Committee Treasurer—M. H. Ferguson.
Light Record Committee—H. E. Gough, D. A. Hodges.
Junior Cricket Groundsman—P. J. Callaghan.
Cricket Games Wardens—A. D. Heppleston, C. B. Stillwell. Tennis Games
Wardens—G. S. Bartlett, M. A. Gooding.
Hockey Games Warden—C. J. Webb.
Finance Committee—M. J. Bartlett, S. Greenlaw.
Drying Room Committee—T. C. Bass, T. J. Tudge, R. C. Jones.
Hockey Secretary, 1959-60—N. J. Price.
Paperman—M. C. Jones.
Magazine Committee, 1959-60—M. van den Driessche, J. B. Gooch,
D. A. Hodges.
Junior Tennis Groundsman—K. H. Stimson.
Breakages Man—K. A. Walker.
Cricket Groundsman—I. S. C. Airey.
Tennis Groundsman—P. B. Heppleston.
Council—R. Bolton-King, J. B. Gooch, P. G. S. Airey, M. van den Driessche,
R. A. Cockrell, G. Harrison, J. Shaw.
Selection Committee—R. Bolton-King, J. B. Gooch, P. G. S. Airey,
M. van den Driessche, J. R. Windsor.
Rule Committee—G. Harrison, J. R. Windsor, M. van den Driessche.
Nominations Committee—R. A. Cockrell, M. van den Driessche,
J. B. Gooch, P. G. S. Airey, J. R. Windsor.
Rugby Games Warden—K. A. Walker.
Cricket Secretary, 1959—G. J. Taylor.
Rugby Secretary, 1959—I. S. C. Airey.
Magazine Committee, 1958-59—D. R. Poole, G. Harrison, R. D. Comley.

GENERAL MEETING NOTES

Although the usual keen interest was shown in meetings and meeting activities, meetings tended to be uncoordinated and energetic discussions lacked positive decisions.

In the Autumn Term a committee had been elected to investigate the buying of a new amplifier and pre-amplifier. Eventually, after careful consideration, the meeting accepted the Committee's advice and a Leak T/L25 amplifier and Varislope III control unit were installed in the old cabinet, during examination week, by Cavendish House of Cheltenham.

An important controversy sprang up suddenly at the start of elections when Vth Form members proposed that they should be allowed to vote for Games Captain, this election normally being taken by the VIth Form. This term, they argued, the small VIth Form, which included non-cricketers, was not representative of the 1st XI and 1st Game. The arguments against this change in ruling were mainly constitutional. Deadlock was reached and the Headmaster's advice sought. He replied that this election had been made a VIth Form vote after the College had contemplated making the office a College appointment, following a run of unsuitable elections. It was very bad policy to change a carefully constructed rule on the spur of the moment. He stressed the danger of electing captains solely on popularity or because they were the best players. The proposal from Form V was not accepted.

Growing dissatisfaction with "Lilliput" and the gap caused by "Picture Post" being no longer published were brought to a head by passing a proposal to buy "Life" at 50% discount, instead of "Lilliput."

The meeting commemorated the death of its Founder, Mr. J. H. Simpson, who died during the term.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

The following attended the O. R. Hockey Match on Saturday, the 21st of March, 1959: J. W. Sumsion, J. Gough, J. R. Ellis, J. R. Alder, R. J. Kendal, M. G. Cooper, C. J. Brisley, R. A. Powell, B. Glastonbury, S. R. Merrett, D. G. Vaisey, P. Barter, R. H. Jones, T. Gay, R. W. Alder, C. H. Handoll, G. H. G. Herbert.

We congratulate John Owen, PH. D., Physics Tutor at Lincoln College, Oxford, on the award of a Royal Society Research Fellowship to work on "exchange interactions in Magnetic Systems."

HOCKEY.

Easter, 1959.

The wintry conditions once again delayed the start of our hockey season. The early matches against Dean Close and Cheltenham College were unfortunately cancelled, as well as our fixture with Monkton Coombe later in the term. Notwithstanding, the 1st XI had an enjoyable season, playing seven matches, of which two were won, four lost, and one drawn.

Hockey on the forecourt dominated the first four weeks of term. Our first match, against Bristol University 3rd XI, showed that we were badly in need of grass practice, but we were fitter than our opponents and moved the ball about a lot more, and gained our most decisive victory by 7-3. Perhaps our most exciting match was at Marlborough, where we fought a dour struggle on an excellent pitch, and drew 1-1. The Old Rendcombianians were able to produce a strong team against us for our match on the last Saturday of term. We were able to commit ourselves with credit, but in the end their extra experience and strength resulted in their winning an exciting match by 3-0.

Our forward line raised high hopes at the beginning of the season, scoring 11 goals in the first two matches. This promise seemed to fade, however, and towards the end of the season we were realising that it is only skill, energy and spirit in the circle which produces goals. Cohesion between the halves and the forwards was better than last year, and we were often able to rely on our backs and goalkeeper.

Apart from the opening match, when J. B. Gooch was first choice, R. P. S. Harrison was the 1st XI goalkeeper. He played well throughout the term; he showed great coolness under pressure, and brought off many memorable saves. His clearing-kicks still lack confidence, but full confidence comes from practice, and he should be a great asset next year.

M. van den Driessche and P. G. S. Airey were the two backs for the greater part of the term. Driessche obviously profited from his past experience as a half-back, and was frequently able to make some good interceptions. He has a very powerful hit, and, equally important, a good sense of direction. Airey's difficulty was that, as the term progressed, the play speeded up, leaving him behind.

He too, has a hard hit, and started the season well, but later proved too slow in getting rid of the ball, and was replaced by J. R. Marshall, a keen and promising young player who should have gained useful experience in his three matches. The wing-halves were R. F. Stebbing and N. J. Price. Throughout the season Stebbing developed a very neat stick, and combined a personal wish to play forward with a grim determination to defend, to produce a very good left-half. Price's play improved greatly during the season; by the end he was tackling well and sending some well-judged passes to the forwards.

R. Bolton-King, on the left wing, showed admirable ball-control in what is generally recognised as a difficult position. He showed some good bursts of speed, but shared a tendency to stay too far back, thus failing to reach passes, with J. Shaw, on the right wing. The latter showed a very good turn of speed, and would make a first-rate winger if he will learn to pass sooner.

H. E. Gough was the most forceful of an over-cautious inside trio. He played at inside-right, and was a tenacious player both in attack and defence, for we used the W-formation throughout the season. To correct his faults, he must not hang back in defence at the expense of receiving his passes, and must remember the golden rule for more vigour in the circle.

J. M. Webb, at centre-forward, had exceptional stick-work. At first this meant that he was selfish and tried to dribble on grass as he knew he could on the forecourt, but he soon gave this up in favour of intelligent short passes amongst his fellow forwards. He too must practice more aggression in the circle and try to overcome his reluctance to tackle back.

R. A. Cockrell, playing at inside-left for his second season, scored some good goals in the early matches, particularly from following up. He has good ball-control and obvious hockey sense, but his supplies of energy seemed to be rather inconsistent.

G. J. Taylor played at centre-forward against the Old Boys. He has good stick-work and showed intelligence in his passes; with more drive and experience he should prove useful next year.

R. D. Comley, who moved from his last year's position of right-back to centre-half, developed his game greatly during the season. His reactions were much quicker and he was able to anticipate and fill gaps both in attack and defence. Curing an initial tendency to hang too far back, he was well up in attack and his passes to the forwards were timely and well placed. His control of the side also developed well during the season— in particular in the Marlborough match he was indefatigable both as a player and as a leader.

The Second XI, captained by M. D. Naish, was out of practice and therefore dispirited in their first match, which they lost heavily. They recovered, however, and played courageously and commendably in their other two matches.

UNDER 15 XI

Because there were five players eligible for this team but playing in the senior XI this was necessarily a young side. The standard of play improved steadily throughout the season but it was often higher in practice than in matches. The even results of one match won, one lost and one drawn are a fair reflection of the general performance.

G. S. Bartlett's quiet, competent captaincy proved very valuable and he was usually at hand to fill a dangerous gap. Among the others should be mentioned: C. B. Stillwell, C. C. Richardson, D. J. Tovey and T. G. W. Pettigrew (a promising first season).

RESULTS.

1st XI.

Wednesday, Feb. 4 v. Bristol University 3rd XI. Away. Won 7-3.
Saturday, Feb. 14 v. King Edward's, Bath, 1st XI. Home. Won 4-3.
Wednesday, Feb. 18 v. Prince Henry's G. S. 1st XI. Away. Lost 1-2.
Saturday, Feb. 21 v. Marlborough College 2nd XL Away. Drawn 1-1.

Saturday, Feb. 28 v. Exeter College, Oxford. Away. Lost 0-5.
Saturday, March 14 v. Bristol G. S. 1st XI. Away. Lost 2-5.
Saturday, March 21 v. Old Rendcombians. Home. Lost 0-3.

2nd XI.

Wednesday, Feb. 11 v. King's School, Gloucester. Home. Lost 1-12.

Wednesday, Feb. 18 v. Prince Henry's G. S. 2nd XI. Away. Lost 1-3.

Saturday, Feb. 21 v. Marlborough College Colts. Away. Lost 0-6.

Under 15 XL

Saturday, Feb. 14 v. King Edward's, Bath, Junior Colts. Home. Won 6-2.

Saturday, Feb. 21 v. Marlborough College Junior Colts. Away. Lost 0-3.

Saturday, March 14 v. Bristol G. S. Junior Colts. Away. Drawn 1-1.

Under 14 XL

Wednesday, Feb. 11 v. King's School, Gloucester Under 15 XI. Home. Won 4-1.

LODGES RACE.

Run Monday, March 23rd.

Senior. —1, N. J. Price, 13m 41s;
2, P. G. S. Airey, 13m 51½s;
3, R. A. D. B. Laws, 15m 38½s.

Junior. —1, R. C. Jones, 16m 7½s,
2, A. Mead, 16m 29s,
3, D. J. Tovey, 16m 50s.

NATURAL HISTORY SUPPLEMENT.

July 1959.

Miscellaneous Notes, January 1st to April 30th, 1959.

January provided some cold weather during the first half of the month, hard frosts following two or three inches of snow which fell on the 7th-8th. Fairly severe conditions persisted until the 17th, but it seems that the Cotswolds were less hard hit than many other parts of Britain and great numbers of Starlings, Lapwings, Redwings, Fieldfares, Song Thrushes and Skylarks took refuge in this relatively hospitable part of the country. Rain and a rapid thaw following January 17th caused flooding of many rivers, and even the Chum spilled over sufficiently to provide boating facilities below the College.

February was unusually foggy, days of thick mist being frequent until after the middle of the month. A few Crossbills were to be seen and heard around Rendcomb throughout February and March and one pair seemed about to nest behind the College but they eventually disappeared. Many of us saw the beautiful Barn Owl which spent much time in hunting by day below the College and over towards Kennel Bottom all through the term. A Kingfisher was seen on the Churn below

Conigre Wood on March 10th, and two other species worth noting are Hawfinch and Redpoll, both noted at Colesbourne on April 18th.

Winter Aconites (*Eranthis hiemalis*) were fully in bloom by February 2nd, but Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) did not show open flowers until a week after that date. Coltsfoots (*Tussilago farfara*) and Lesser Celandines (*Ranunculus ficaria*) began to flower about March 12th, and a few days later the pallid inflorescences of the parasite Toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*) were seen to be pushing above ground in the slippery path wood (between the Cirencester drive and Potteridge Lane). Although March was quite a pleasant month Windflowers (*Anemone nemorosa*) did not open much before the 20th.

Two fungi may be mentioned. The Edible Morel (*Morchella esculenta*) was discovered in the Slippery Path Wood where it has been seen in previous years, and the Rust-fungus, *Puccinia lapsanae*, was found growing on Nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*) in the same wood.

Arrival of Summer Resident Birds in the Rendcomb Area, 1959.

Owing to absence of observers, especially between April 4th and 14th, records this year have been far from adequate during the early and middle period of the spring migration.

Chiffchaff. —A very few were seen and heard round Rendcomb between March 26th and April 4th. By April 15th the bird was plentiful.

Swallow. —A few were present in the district by April 15th, but there was no marked influx at any time and numbers have remained small this year.

Willow Warbler. —Already fairly numerous by April 15th and more so by the 20th. Full population may have been achieved by the 22nd.

Whitethroat. —Single birds at Rendcomb on April 16th, 19th, 21st and 23rd, and an increase in numbers by the 26th.

Redstart. —Already present in the district by mid-April. Several in the Rendcomb-Colesbourne area on the 18th—19th. Thinly spread by the 23rd and a steady increase in numbers to about the 28th, when probably all had arrived.

Hobby. —One seen over Cowley on April 19th.

Blackcap. —Already several in the Rendcomb-Colesbourne area on April 17th—18th. Still only thinly distributed by the 23rd and then a fairly rapid increase to the 28th.

Tree Pipit. —One at Colesbourne on April 18th and one at Rendcomb on the 26th. Thinly scattered over the district by the 29th.

Cuckoo. —One at Rendcomb on April 20th and thereafter one or more heard daily into May.

Sedge Warbler. —One singing near Perrots Brook on April 19th. This species does not often penetrate so far up the Churn as Rendcomb.

Lesser Whitethroat. —One at Cockleford on April 26th.

House Martin. —One over the College on April 26th and three or four in the village on the 28th. Still very few by May 3rd but many more had arrived by the 5th.

Spotted Flycatcher. —None was to be heard round the College and Rendcomb village on May 5th. One was seen the following morning and three or four by 8 p. m. on the same day. By May 7th birds of this species were numerous over the district.

Garden Warbler. —The first heard this year was on May 6th near the College. Small numbers were present by the 8th.

Swift. —Four or five over Rendcomb on May 6th in the evening.

C. M. Swaine, B. Sc.