

**RENDCOMB COLLEGE
MAGAZINE**

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June. 1939

Rendcomb College

Magazine

VOL. 6. No. 9.

JUNE, 1939

SCHOOL NOTES

LENT TERM, 1939.

How many of us are aware of the derivation of the word "Lent"? (By right the adjective should be "lenten"). The root is in the verb "to lengthen", Lent being that season of the year in which the days are lengthening. But in the popular imagination Lent is associated with the idea of fasting. Lenten fare means lean fare, and Lent Term generally manages to live up (or should we say "live down"?) to the common misconception.

It is a short Term. The weather is usually somewhat of a penance, consisting of the dregs of winter with all too little promise of the spring. Furthermore it is the season when we are most likely to be on short rations as regards our bill of health. Perhaps not a very encouraging note on which to begin these remarks, but we have to start somehow. And we started this year on Friday, the 13th January. Let us see how we lived this down.

There had been few changes during the holidays. No one left at Christmas. P. Betts and M. C. Thompson entered College at the beginning of the New Year.

A few minor changes had been made in the disposition of the rest rooms on the top floor. As always, when we come back, we found the College and House very spick and span—evidence of the amount of work that falls to the domestic staff while we are still enjoying our leisure.

There were no alterations in the time-table, but the experiment was made of holding the School Examinations at approximately mid-term. This gave us an opportunity of stocktaking, and enabled work to be resumed, profiting, we hope, by the knowledge thus acquired, and to be continued without interruption till the end of Term.

We made the most of the weather. It had provided the canoe-minded in our midst with floods. The Severn Valley at Gloucester resembled the inundation scenes in "The Mill on the Floss." It was too good a chance to be missed.

On this scene of watery desolation the Gryphons were to be observed disporting themselves.

January 22nd and 23rd saw a flotilla of small craft navigating the flooded meadows near the Gloucester by-pass, a proceeding which naturally attracted the attention of the passers-by and which was snapped in the local press. Excitement was added by a mishap which befell Mr. Lee-Browne in a gallant attempt to beat out windward in a canoe sporting full sail. The force of the wind snapped his mast and the boat capsized'. He came up however with his pipe still in his mouth, and by kicking off his gum boots managed to keep afloat and bring his canoe to shore, after negotiating a very difficult submerged fence. The boots, we are glad to say, were retrieved when the floods subsided.

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Snow fell during the first weeks of Term and tempted out our tobogganers. The more venturesome betook themselves to the perilous slopes of Kennel Bottom. At a certain point on this run the tobogganers (if you remember) completely leave the ground and land again several yards further on. That is the attraction of this course, coupled with the fact that you have to throw yourself off sideways to avoid the fence at the finish.

All went to plan with the exception of one toboggan, with three occupants, which stuck as it made a landing and scattered its crew with considerable shock to themselves. Michael Levett sustained a broken leg which was in plaster for the rest of the Term. This mishap however did not deter the enthusiasts. A party returned to the same spot on the following day, and we are assured that "a good time was had by all."

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These were light-hearted calamities, but we could wish that we had been spared a visitation of chicken pox—very mild ones as it happened—and a rather irritating bout of influenza which proved to be no respecter of persons. But no one was seriously ill, and the affair was merely a nuisance, not a menace. One of the results was that we were in quarantine for some weeks, and' instead of attending services in Church on Sundays held our own prayers in the Dining Hall.

We were able to carry out most of our club fixtures in hockey, and' everybody made the best of the temporary inconvenience.

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Old Boys' Day occurred on Saturday, 25th March, when the usual Hockey Match took place, and the visitors dined with the Headmaster and senior members of the staff. We wish

we could have an Old Boys' Week instead of a single day! The feeling one is always left with on these occasions is that there is not half enough time to fit everything in, and just when the talk is getting most interesting it's time to go.

During the Term the roof of the Laboratory has been renewed and telephone extensions carried thither and to Rendcomb House. The first was a work of necessity, the second a very welcome amenity which will be of great service.

Mr. Morel has presented the Laboratory with two large insect cabinets, containing British and Foreign butterflies, moths and beetles. It has now been possible to assemble a very representative collection of British butterflies and moths under one roof by combining both collections in the Lab., the beetles being transferred to cases in the College.

As we go to press we are informed that what we might call our Natural History museum has been enriched by a further collection of butterflies presented by Miss R. F. Butler. She has also given us two very useful storage cases.

We wish to thank both these benefactors.

Mr. E. G. Neal has been placed on the panel of examiners in Biology for the London General School Certificate.

We have great pleasure in announcing the birth of a son, Romilly St. John, to Mr. and Mrs. H. Wallis-Hosken.

E. R. S. Gillham obtained second place in the Javelin Event, 4th place in the Steeplechase, and standard's in Weight and Discus, at the Public Schools' Championship, held at the White City Stadium.

Concrete pitches have been laid down at the nets in the enclosed lawn. The old grass pitches had become dangerously uncertain, and the change should give us a fast pitch of uniform reliability. The work which entailed no slight labour was carried out by Mr. James, assisted by a party of volunteers.

Mrs. Noel Wills has again placed us under a debt of gratitude. She has given to the College an oil-painting depicting scenes from Greek mythology and a number of framed posters which are now enlivening the Music Room. The oil-painting is the work of the well-known artist Hugh Riviere who painted the portrait of our Founder that adorns the Dining Hall, and those of Canon Sewell and Sir Francis Hyett. Apparently Mr. Wills had commissioned the artist to paint a canvas that would illustrate certain famous incidents in Greek legend and literature. It was a formidable task and the picture contains a remarkable amount of skilful detail. It now hangs over the mantelpiece in the Big School and is a welcome addition to that room. We take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. Wills for this quite unexpected gift.

Miss Williamson, who had been acting in a temporary capacity as Assistant Matron, left at the end of Term. We wish her every success in the new post to which she has gone.

We had an innovation in the matter of cinematography this Term. The well-known film "The Wandering Jew" was secured for exhibition and provided a change from the usual fare. In addition we were shown a Cadbury documentary film of more than ordinary merit. Quite unexpectedly Tom Greenway appeared in it.

One does not expect Lent Term to end with the festivities that usher out the week before the Christmas holidays. But this year there were compensations, and the last few days of Term were marked by a number of interesting engagements. The Staff produced a three-act thriller, and there was a recital of music on our final Sunday afternoon. These events together with the North Cerney and Junior Lodges' races rang down the curtain on a Term which however it may have begun managed to retrieve its reputation as it went along.

Owing to lack of space certain articles are being held over until our next number.

THE GENERAL MEETING

OFFICERS—SUMMER TERM, 1939.

Chairman: D. F. Gallop.

Council: E. R. S. Gillham, W. A. Wyon, P. F. Tuft, R. L. Short,
M. F. Lane, E. R. Morris, J. F. Spencer.

Meeting Selection Committee: E- R. S. Gillham, W. A. Wyon,
R. L. Short, M. F. Lane, E. R. Morris.

House Committee: J. W. H. Neads, J. R. Luton, G. W. Ivens, P. B. Lane,
A. R. Tenty.

Games Committee: R. L. Short (Capt.), D. F. Gallop, M. F. Lane.

Games Treasurer: E. R. Morris.

Games Secretary: P. S. Jackson.

Senior Shopman: R. F. Boyland.

Shopmen: P. G. Forrest, M. A. Bullen.

Banker: B. H. Harben.

Breakages Man: C. E. H. Tuck.

Secretary: P. S. Jackson.

Auditors: C. E. H. Tuck, F. H. Dutton

Apprentice Auditor: A. W. Morris.

Finance Committee: J. Owen, J. H. Quick, F. H. Dutton.

Entertainments Committee: H. S. Palmer, E. J. Clissold, P. A. Cutts,
M. J. Bedwell, C. D. M. Barnett,

Cycle Men: J. H. Quick, B. J. Lumby, L. H. B. Hatherell.

Paper Man: F. H. Dutton.

Pauntley Committee: S. J. Curry.

Athletics Committee: E. R. S. Gillham, R. L. Short,
D. F. Gallop.

Amplifier Committee: P. A. Cutts, F. H. Dutton, P. Binks, J. F. Spencer,
F. R. Dobbs,

Magazine Committee: J. R. Harmer, E. R. Morris, F. R. Dobbs

Drying Room Committee: E. J. Clissold, J. L. Russell
R. A. S. Primrose.

Games Wardens:

Hockey: D. Montgomery.

Football: P. F. Gurdon.

Tennis: P. A. Herring.

Cricket: H. S. Palmer, J. G. Sterry.

Indoor: M. C. Thompson.

Tennis Groundsman: J. F. Spencer.

Lecture Committee: P. H. Tuft, R. L. Short, W. A. Wyon, E. R. Morris,
J. R. Harmer.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

LENT TERM, 1939.

We print elsewhere an account of a thrilling adventure which happened to M. C. Richardson in the English Channel. At Mr. Lee-Browne's request he has presented the broken mast of his yacht to the Gryfons for a flagstaff down by the lake.

Peter Wyon has been having an interesting time since he has been qualified. After a period in a large Municipal Hospital he was Casualty Officer at Huddersfield General Hospital. Later he went to sea as a ship's doctor for four months and had an interesting time in Malay, China and Japan, seeing something of Shanghai and the war zone. He is now doing an assistant's job in a country practice in order to gain experience. His address is: —c/o Dr. McArthur, [REDACTED], Thirsk.

W. Y. Willetts has won the First Prize in the Drama Contest at Bristol University. His play entitled "Hedge about Them" might be termed a modern morality, and as produced by the Author had a musical motif running through it, taken from Debussy's prelude "La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin."

Willetts has also been on the air at the Western Regional Station, giving an account of his very remarkable hitch-hike across Europe to the Bosphorus.

R. Townsend is working in the Stores Department of the Bristol Aeroplane Company at Filton.

Graeme Wilson saw Mr. Lange in Hamburg during the Easter Holidays. Mr. Lange did not go out East as had been expected and is working in a business post in Hamburg.

The following Old Boys were present on Old Boys' Day, 25th March: —J. E. Allen, O- G. Morel, J. R. Davies, P. J. Dyke, R. C. V. Waters, G. D. Waters, J. Billany, W. Y. Willetts, A. E. Godsell, D. G. Morison and B. H. Peacock.

Roy Bettison is farming in Canada. His address for the present is, [REDACTED] Stroud, Glos., from which letters will be forwarded. He has kindly presented his canoe to the College.

Dick Collett has been appointed to a Commission in the Monmouth Regiment. John Collett is applying for a short-service Commission in the Royal Air Force.

ACTING

LA RENTE VIAGERE

On Saturday, March 11th, *La Rente Viagere*, by Gabriel d'Hervilliez.

Here the main interest is centred on Monsieur Lebidou, an apparently fast-ailing man who declares that his days are numbered. A hale and hearty fellow, Monsieur Verdureau has taken a fancy to the old man's house and is anxious to carry out the necessary legal operations to procure it. Lebidou's pensive, and hesitating manner irritate Verdureau considerably and he has difficulty in concealing his impatience. On the arrival of Monsieur Tondeu, the lawyer, he attempts to speed things up so that he can legalise his desire. Poor old Lebidou falters under the strain of figures and documents and the able Dr. Pic is continually being called to his assistance. He proves obstinate over certain details however and forces Verdureau to accept his decisions by fainting away each time he is contradicted. At last everything is signed and Verdureau breathes a sigh of relief. He has reckoned without Lebidou however who expresses his desire to make certain alterations in his cherished house before he dies—"une salle de bain", "le chauffage central" and "la T. S. F." are but a few of his desires. Verdureau is driven almost to distraction and to crown everything the old man reveals that he is after all quite as hearty and robust as anyone in the room.

There was, perhaps, too little action in the play but it was distinguished by the fine acting of Mr. Wright. He is a master of intonation but his facial expressions were particularly noticeable. E. R. S. Gillham as Verdureau had the task of alternating between the impartial go-easy type and a grasping unscrupulous individual, he rendered his part adequately. H. W. T. Bates and M. H. F. Fischer as the lawyer and doctor respectively were both suited to their small parts.

LA POUDRE FULMINANTE

This, together with "*La Rente Viagere*" provided a thoroughly French evening. The play, acted by Form II, was well chosen, it was simple and short.

The plot concerned a doctor's servant who, during his master's absence, attended the patients with sad result, not being experienced in the art of mixing powders.

The part of the doctor's assistant was ably played by Luffman. Basset as the doctor was good but we saw too little of him, for he had to be absent during the antics of his servant. The rest had such small parts that it would be difficult to comment on them individually, but we hope that they enjoyed their first taste of Rendcomb acting, and will appear again.

The cast was as follows:

Docteur Tisane	C. H. Basset.
Cleobule (his servant)	F. T. Luffman.
Dubois D. H. Hill.
Dupont	M. J. Tarrant.
Durand	R. Brain.
Duracuire	N. P Morris.

THE COINER.

By Bernard Duffy.

This was the third of a series of Irish Plays produced by Mr. Wilson, and was probably the best of the three.

The story is that of a farmer and his wife who are cheated by a travelling tinker. The tinker, while sheltering in their house during a storm, offers to sell them the secret for making bright new half-crowns. But there is an unexpected 'twist' at the end when the canny wife, in exchange for the so called secret, palms off a false sovereign on the tinker, and so evens out accounts.

N. Stone played the part of the tinker. He was well cast and did a lot for the play. D. Smith as the farmer worked with spirit and provided a fitting partner for his wife. F. H. Dutton, the wife, had the right voice and was good in his part. We liked L. Hatherell as the farmer's son, and also we liked J. Cunnison, the promotion-seeking policeman.

The play as a whole was brisk and ran smoothly. The makeup, especially that of Stone and Smith, was applied with discretion; for sometimes the make-up man is apt to forget how near our audience is and rather overdo the 'old age' lines of the face.

SOMEONE AT THE DOOR.

This three-act comedy thriller by Dorothy and Campbell Christie, was presented by the staff on the evening of the 28th March.

We do not propose to give a synopsis of this highly sensational drama. It was full of excitements and mysterious double-crossing. There were murders, feigned and actual, blackouts, sliding panels, concealed hiding-places, stolen jewels, third degree intimidations, in short all the devices that go to make up an ideal melodrama.

But one would be wrong to suppose that there was nothing else. Actually this play gives scope for some excellent character acting. The people in it were real. They were not mere puppets in the hands of a sensation-monger. And they came to life in this production.

It was obvious that with longer rehearsal the result would have been more finished, but it went well on the night.

Mr. Wright produced and at the same time played the longest part. He is a natural actor, devoid of affectation, and appears to enter into his parts with the greatest ease. He took the role of Ronnie Martin—a decidedly original young journalist who in search of a “scoop” decides to plan a fake murder. Sally Martin—his sister and supposed victim was played by Mrs. Lee-Browne. She gave a vivacious rendering of the part with just the right touch of lightness. Mr. Gross was well cast as a young doctor who keeps outside the main action but always registers the correct and appropriate response.

The others, with the exception of O’Brien—an inoffensive Irish Police-Constable—were thugs of varying degrees. Mr. Lee-Browne made what must have been one of the most revolting and sinister personal servants ever employed in a polite household. His make-up was masterly. So was his limping gait and murderous expression.

Mr. Mack, as Police-Sergeant Spedding—in reality an arch criminal in disguise, was tough and menacing, while Mr. Richards (his accomplice in crime) presented a plausible exterior—the adventurer posing as a country gentleman until his evil machinations were unmasked. Mr. Wilson as the Irish Constable looked the part and had the initial advantage of an easily assumed brogue.

The “business” was complicated and was carried out very creditably. All conspired to produce an evening of thrills and excitement.

LECTURES

LENT TERM, 1939.

We enjoyed a variety of lectures this Term. One of them indeed did not come to lecture at all—we refer to the Rev. J. M. Philpott who was the first of our visitors, and who is certain to be one of the most vividly remembered.

Mr. Wilson's talk on The National Gallery suggested' that it was about time we had another visit from Mr. C. F. Cook, and he came to us later in Term. The other two lectures dealt with political subjects and were given by lecturers who had thoroughly mastered the art of explanation.

On Wednesday, 8th February, the Rev. J. M. Philpott gave us a conjuring display. He is a member of the Magic Circle, a society of amateur conjurers.

At the outset he said that Mr. Philpott over and above his skill in magic possesses a very remarkable personality. His patter was racy and had the desired effect of drawing our attention away from his manipulations—a trick that conjurers have.

The most impressive tricks were those which required the minimum of apparatus. The first one, for example, when he tore up a strip of paper into minute pieces and then produced it whole again. He pretended to let us into the secret and as a result we could see how he substituted a fresh strip at the end. But he was too canny to demonstrate how he got rid of the pieces!

A ten shilling note found its way into the inside of an apple. A playing card passed into a case that had been as impregably closed as a jeweller's safe.

The reverend gentleman proceeded to drink a green liquid as potent looking as Dr. Jekyll's draught, and then inserting a tube in his mouth, lit a gas mantle at the end, supplied from the human gasometer. This illumination could be turned on and off by a twitch of the performer's ear.

Some of the apparatus tricks were exceedingly spectacular, but Mr. Philpotts' skill was shown most clearly in his really remarkable sleight of hand operations. He deserved the tumultuous applause at the end and we look forward to a further visit from this clerical wizard.

On Sunday, February 12th, Mr. Wilson lectured on some pictures of the National Gallery. His slides dealt with two eras in the history of painting, the Renaissance in Italy and the development of modern landscape painting in England and

France. The earliest pictures often altar pieces, consisted of a few main figures painted on a plain gilt background. This technique tended to emphasize the religious subjects which were then the basis of all painting. The Renaissance however taught man to be interested in things of this world to a greater extent, so that artists began to paint their pictures against a landscape background. In a picture like Piero's "Nativity," we see that the artist has given the larger part of the picture to his main subjects but has placed behind it a typical Italian landscape with its dark, heavy cypress trees. This picture also shows the mathematical mindedness of the Italian artists, for each figure possesses a sculptural rigidity which suggests suspended action. The new technique soon grew into a love for handling solid masses, and the backgrounds to Filippino Lippi's "Virgin and Child" and Leonardo's famous "Virgin of the Rocks" are characteristic of this.

As a contrast to the tranquillity which is evident in all these pictures of religious subjects, we saw some of the animated paintings on mythological subjects. Tintoretto's Juno in the "Origin of the Milky Way", the flying princess in "St. George and the Dragon" and the jostling Bacchanals all possess superhuman and ethereal power and mark the Renaissance return to Greek and Roman mythological subjects.

At this point we left the Italian painters and came to more modern times. In a picture like Claude's Marriage Festival of Isaac and Rebecca we see that it is really a landscape and the title only describes the few indistinct figures in the foreground. Like the Renaissance painters some of the moderns were fond of heavy masses. The "Market Cart" by Gainsborough, is composed mainly of the leafy masses of the surrounding trees. It is noticeable that in this and other pictures of the period, brown was the colour for all foliage and it was not until Constable began painting from nature that the true green of nature came into its own. The "Hay Wain" marked the beginning of a new era in landscape painting.

Thus Mr. Wilson led us from Renaissance, Italy, to more modern England. The transition had been rather a sudden one but this was unavoidable in a lecture of this length. The slides which he had chosen with great care were monochrome and although much of the beauty of a picture is in its colour, this fact in no way detracted from the success of the lecture. Mr. Wilson's emphasis was on pictorial form and for this, coloured slides were not necessary. Indeed there is much controversy over the whole subject of whether coloured reproductions are too inaccurate to give a true version of the original.

On Wednesday, February 15th, Mr. Shoran S. Singha lectured to Forms VI, V, and IV on India, and general opinion afterwards was that it had been undoubtedly one of the best lectures we had had here for a very long time. Mr. Singha himself is head of the Indian Students' Association in London, which perhaps tends to explain one of the outstanding points of his lecture, his remarkable English.

The lecture was above all crammed with facts, and in that short time, most of us most probably learned more about India than we had ever known before.

Mr. Singha did not attempt to bore us with the usual romantic descriptions of the religion and habits of India; he went straight to the problems which are to be solved in India— problems of all kinds, social, political, economic and' educational. Perhaps it is now the time to pay Mr. Singha the greatest compliment of all. Although most of the audience felt, that he was an ardent follower of Gandhi and supporter of the Indian Christian movement, his lecture yet appeared to be to us entirely and completely unbiased.

Mr. Singha first of all explained the demands the national movement in India was making. They did not desire to break away entirely from England, for they would soon find themselves in the hands of Japan, a fact which he illustrated by a short, true, and very good story. All that India wanted was to enter into the British Empire on a Dominion basis, comparable to the position of Australia, Canada, or South Africa. They wanted to have their own federal Parliament, instead of being under the direction of Whitehall. He explained to us the extreme difficulty of breaking the power of the vested interests and the native princes in that Parliament, but nevertheless was hopeful of a solution. He explained to us the new administration of the country by the Indians themselves, and the way many of them were ready to sacrifice their own good for that of the community. He also spoke of the two tremendous boons England had conferred on India. She had given India a common language in English, and a religion in Christianity, the latter fact he estimated of tremendous importance. He then shortly spoke about the Indian police, and answered the questions, which were asked at the conclusion. We were very sorry to come to the end of such an excellent lecture, and were very pleased to hear that Mr. Singha is visiting us again next December.

On February 19th, Mrs. Donald Grant lectured to the senior Forms on "The Christian Stream in History". Paradoxically enough her lecture was for the most part devoted to an examination of the Fascist ideology. Political science is a difficult subject to get across to an audience that has done little or no specialist reading,

but Mrs. Grant's exposition was singularly lucid. Her points followed a clear order and at the end we were in a position to see very distinctly what she meant by the Christian stream in history—that belief in the supreme value of the individual and of liberty in human relationships. The state is made for man and not man for the state.

Fascist doctrine implies a denial of this truth. Not that it denies for the mere sake of repression, but in the view of its ideology man is not fitted for freedom. It assumes a limited and static view of human nature.

Bernard Shaw in his recent play "Geneva" seems to end with the conclusion that man is a failure as a political animal. But where he differs from Fascism is that he does not believe this to be necessarily so. We ought to be able to surmount our shortcomings. Klage and the totalitarian philosophers however accept our failure to build up a really satisfactory free society as a proof that the ideals of democracy are based on a false conception of fact. The average human being is far from being an enlightened individual. Give him freedom and he will only abuse it. Hence he must be governed by an absolute power. The authority of the state must be imposed by an external sanction: it has not its validity in the will or rights of the masses.

There is nothing new in this conception. It is the axiom behind all forms of despotism, but, as Mrs. Grant contended, it cuts across the Christian conception of the dignity and worth of the individual life. Its adoption by the totalitarian states of modern Europe has led to what Aldous Huxley has called a recession from charity. We are, living in an age dominated by force, and in consequence it is an age of Fear.

The democracies—if they are to survive—must set their own houses in order—but in doing so they cannot afford to adopt a Fascist policy, however plausibly this may be concealed from their peoples. Only by asserting the rights of the individual, the value of freedom, and by setting their faces against a system which envisages human society as a termite colony can they preserve those liberties of mind' and action which Mrs. Grant has termed the Christian stream in history.

Mr. C. F- Cook is well-known to us, and we were glad to welcome him on the evening of the 22nd March, when he came to give us one of his illustrated lectures on Painting. His subject was the Dutch Masters, but at the close of his lecture he showed some slides illustrating the origins of English painting.

In Mr. Cook we have a lecturer who is in love with his subject. He has a genuine care for the pictures that he is talking

about and he is interested in their human associations. Possibly he is a little too catholic in his likings. All art is not on the same level and even the great masters have been known to nod.

For example, Frans Hals for all his alleged concern with diagonals and other somewhat crude methods of pictorial composition never really mastered the principles of form, and his large and spectacular “Archer” pictures at Haarlem are not ultimately satisfactory.

In Rembrandt Mr. Cook had a painter who admirably suited his method of approach, for few artists have been so indisputably human in the best sense of that word. His work is inseparable from his life. It is concerned with his passions and human experience. (As a direct contrast one might cite Piero della Francesca). The slides of Rembrandt and Vermeer of Delft, that master of luminosity—were among the best we have ever seen; incidentally Mr. Cook informed us that Vermeer’s “The Artist’s Studio” one of the treasures of the Vienna collections is now in Hitler’s possession at Berchtesgaden.

The Dutch cabinet pictures—those entrancing little glimpses of domestic life—were well represented.

In conclusion Mr. Cook, by special request, showed us some interesting slides of English primitive painting—of which so little, is extant, and ended with a series of Hogarth’s well-known essays in satire.

His slides were for the most part excellent. It is a disputed point how far coloured slides can be really satisfactory. Some of his, in particular the Vermeer ones were the best we have ever seen, but in others the tonal values were distorted and the colours rather crude. For an audience not acquainted with the originals, colour is probably all to the good. It adds a secondary stimulus, and in the case of the moderns—the Impressionists and their successors it is perhaps a necessity, but tinted lantern slides seldom, if ever, have the accuracy of reproduction that can be obtained even in a cheap coloured print.

In the interests of unity however it would seem a mistake to mix coloured with monochrome reproductions.

THE WANDERING JEW

This film, although old, was in fair condition. It was interesting to note the different technique employed’ in the silent films as compared with modern methods. The elaborate melodramatic gestures seemed odd and over acted, until one realised that to get any sort of effect across, in the absence, of sound track, they were highly necessary.

Perhaps some were disappointed, having become so accustomed to the, perfection of modern films. Even so, it is good, once in a while, to see how far films have progressed. The choice of the incidental music was well made and the evening can be considered a success.

MUSIC.

“Music hath charms—it blesseth him who makes and him who hears.” May we be permitted this misquotation because it sets out the dual aspect of what may be called community music? it is a good thing for performers to get together and enjoy themselves, but they must have their audience in mind also and remember that every single item should give them pleasure too. The moral is obvious. There were items in this concert that we listeners enjoyed. There were others, —but we’ll say no more.

It opened with some choruses from “The Mikado,” “The Gondoliers” and “The Yeoman of the Guard,” sung with evident gusto. Then followed two trios by Boyce and Corelli for piano, violin and recorder, played by Mr. Fell, Mr. Richards and Cutts. Mr. Mack contributed a skilful piano solo by Liszt. P. A. Cutts played a violin solo by Gluck, and then we heard the chorus again in selections from “Ruddigore” and “Iolanthe.”

Mrs. Lee-Browne conducted the choir, Mr. Fell made a useful accompanist, and the singers were: —Trebles: Owen, Margetts, Morris N. P., Hill; Altos: Jackson, Luton; Tenors: Mr. Gross, Mr. Richards, Trayhurn, Cutts; Basses: Mr. Wright and Bates.

A WEEK END ADRIFT IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL

(With acknowledgements to the “Dartmouth and South Hams Chronicle.”)
April 19th—25th, 1939.

A dramatic telephone call shortly before ten o’clock on Tuesday night relieved the anxiety of a Dittisham father and mother for their 22-year-old son who, the previous Wednesday, had sailed from Dittisham in a three-and-a-half ton sloop. His destination was Hythe, Southampton, which he reached on Tuesday despite an accident in the English Channel in which the mast of his vessel broke off and the boat on several occasions drifted dangerously near to passing steamers in the darkness.

The sloop’s helmsman was Mr. Michael Carwithen Richardson, the son of Commander R. C. Richardson, D. S. O., and Mrs. Richardson, of [REDACTED], Riversea Road, Dittisham.

A week or so before he left Dittisham, he arrived there in his sloop, the Vagabond, in which he had sailed from Hythe to visit his parents. He left Hythe on one day and arrived off Dartmouth the following morning, mooring up at Dittisham in time for breakfast. After spending a holiday with his mother and father, Mr. Richardson decided to sail back to Hythe.

He left Dittisham on Wednesday, but conditions forced him to put into Brixham. It was from that port he sailed out into the Channel on the Friday and was not heard of again until Tuesday.

Mr. Richardson had promised his parents that he would notify them as soon as he arrived at his destination. It was expected that he would reach Hythe by Sunday, and when Commander Richardson and his wife had not received any message by Tuesday morning they communicated with the Dartmouth police. Telephone enquiries were made by the police at Swanage and Weymouth, and Commander Richardson got in touch with Lloyd's in London by whom a message was broadcast to all shipping asking it to keep a look-out for the sloop which has no engine.

It transpired that the mast had broken off at Anvil Point, near Portland Bill. With the aid of an improvised sail, however, Mr. Richardson was able to sail into Hythe at 9:10 on Tuesday night. Then he telephoned his father and mother to tell them that he was safe.

At the start of the eventful voyage the weather was calm, and after he had been towed out to the Castle Ledge buoy and was making fairly good headway, the light breeze dropped and a passing trawler towed the Vagabond into Brixham. Mr. Richardson left Brixham again on Friday and once clear of Berry Head, he, had the advantage of a good south-west breeze.

The Anvil Point light showed up at 12:15 a. m. on Saturday morning, and at 1:30 it was abeam. According to Mr. Richardson in a letter which his father received from him yesterday morning, the Vagabond was now "bucking the tide" which was very strong. At 3:30 the sky darkened and the wind became fresher, although Mr. Richardson did not think it necessary to reef his sails.

Later, the wind veered to the north-west and he found that he could not hold his course, without fear of jibing. He bore away slightly, intending to jibe when the Needles light was sighted.

"Then, at 4:15," Mr. Richardson told his father, "Nemesis overtook me. There was a dreadful crack, a crash, and poor old Vagabond nearly stood on her head. The mast went overboard, breaking off about one foot from the deck." The cause of the accident was the backstay block ringbolt which had

pulled itself clean out of the deck, and when the mast went over the side, the dinghy, which was made fast to the deck, went with it.

Mr. Richardson managed to secure the dinghy and tied it to a rail, but after a time the painter broke and the dinghy was lost. "The main fear was of shipping which I had to ward off with the aid of an electric torch," wrote Mr. Richardson, who added that he was able to get the mainsail and the jib below undamaged.

"It was now 6:30," he continued, "so I went below, made some tea, and had a quiet smoke while I considered my next move. At 4:15 I had logged my position as being about ten miles south-east of Anvil Point, and when the mast went I saw the flash of the Needles light about a point off the port bow."

Between 4:15 and 6:30 the tide had' set back the Vagabond until it was abeam of Anvil Point. The boat was not shipping a great deal of heavy water. Several freighters passed close by, but, according to Mr. Richardson, "did not seem interested in me."

"I had three spars—the broken mast, the boom, and the gaff—the mainsail, the jib and trysail, the sea anchor, an abundance of rope, and a fair set of tools. The first job was to remove the stump of the mast. This was a tricky job as it was well wedged' in, and there was not much to hold on to. In fact, being on deck was like riding an untamed bronco.

"I managed to get out the stump although I broke my only chisel in doing so. Then I tried to rig the boom as a jury mast but found it too hefty to lift into place, so finally, I rigged up the gaff, well stayed with the jaws uppermost and ran ropes over the top as halliards. Next, I hoisted the trysail and the motion became much steadier, so I hauled on the anchor and got under way.

"I tried to make the Needles but found that the vessel made too much leeway, and that if I got anywhere near them I would most probably go ashore. Thus, I decided that as the wind and tide would set me round' the back of the. Isle of Wight and that as I was dog-tired I would heave to and get some sleep. I then streamed the sea anchor, took off my wet things and turned in about 10 a. m."

Mr. Richardson slept soundly until 2:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, although it was very noisy. There was a strong wind with a breaking sea. He got under the lee of the Isle of Wight, although by this time the tide had turned against him and he did not make much progress. At 6:30 p. m. the tide turned, and at 8 p. m. the St. Catherine's mark was abeam.

He headed in under the shore where conditions were much, better and where he made good headway. After having a few more hours below, during which he left the boat to its own devices, Mr. Richardson woke up to find the tide had carried him back off St. Helens. Eventually, however, he arrived at Chichester harbour on Sunday "to revise the rigging plan," as he put it.

On Monday, while still in harbour, he awoke at 11 a. m. to experience a strong North West wind accompanied by rain and hail showers. He unravelled all the gear, "faired" off the bottom of the broken mast and made a new "step." The halliards were reefed and, with a great effort, Mr. Richardson was able to get the mast into position. He then bent on the mainsail with two reefs down.

The supply of provisions did not cause any anxiety, and when the Vagabond left Chichester there were two gallons of water on board. He had to tack out against a strong tide which turned at 2. 30 p. m. and he drifted across a shooting range. "I could not do much about it," was Mr. Richardson's comment, "although the sound of guns firing was unnerving."

By six o'clock he was off the Forts, Spithead, with no wind, and later, a fresh breeze sent the boat "scudding" up to Hythe which was reached at 9:10.

Hythe friends of Mr. Richardson, with whom he had been lodging, had been riding motor cycles up and down the coast in search of him, and as his landlady saw the Vagabond coming up the harbour, Commander Richardson, telephoning from Dartmouth, was inquiring if she had any news of his son. A few minutes later Mr. Richardson was speaking to his father.

RAID

Night was drawing on and the great city was preparing to sleep. The lights of the houses were burning, and looking at them, over the smoke grimed chimney pots, it seemed strange that within an hour every one would be out.

The air was oppressive, seeming to be charged with electricity. It was one of those hot summer evenings which make towns unbearable.

Suddenly there was a faint noise which grew louder—the whine of a siren. The whine grew to a shriek; the shriek of the warning siren—the herald of death and destruction.

The wireless crackled, everyone to keep quiet and calm, all lights to be put out, finally the 'take cover' signal.

Ambulances and anti-aircraft batteries to be manned. Then more shrieking from the sirens.

The sound detectors had picked up the sound of the approaching planes. Up 'went the guns, their steel mouths towards the overcast sky. The searchlight units were ready. In the subways there was a frightening rush for the safety of depth. Ambulances were driving to their stations, the decontamination squads were already patrolling the streets. Gas masks for all ...

Within eight and a half minutes the city was in some way prepared for the attack. Still the wireless gave instructions, still the gas masks were handed out, still the siren screamed. Then at once there was a hush, a hush over the huge city. The sirens stopped, the wireless stopped, and everyone watched and waited in silence.

High up across the darkening sky they came. They seemed to come so slowly, they seemed like grey vultures. The faint drone swelled, on they came. The searchlights cut the night like white ribbons. In silence the range-finder crew worked, the guns swung round. The drone became a roar. The silence was shattered, the guns, long silent, spoke. Shells screamed up to the sky, up straight as shafts of light, up to the grey planes in the sky.

And then the bombs began to fall, hurtling down, screaming their mad cry of death; more and more. The noise became terrific, the scream of bombs, the crash of guns. There was a crescendo of noise, and then all at once the sound died away. The last bomber droned away, the last gun fired, and there was silence once again. Night covered the havoc and suffering, the shattered houses and broken limbs. The night covered all for the moment. But tomorrow would see the wreck of the bombs, the crumbling houses. The, dawn would see a different city...

J. R. H., Easter, 1939.

CIVIL ENGINEERING AS A PROFESSION

To those with a mechanical turn of mind, who are leaving school between the ages of 16 and 18 or 19, the Profession of Civil Engineering offers many inducements. At the same time, it is not generally known what qualifications a young engineer should have, nor of what his work is likely to consist. There seems to be very little realisation of the differences in the work of the Civil Engineer as opposed to that of the Mechanical or Automobile Engineer, for example. It is the purpose of this article to give a general indication of the training that

a young Engineer should have, and' a few examples of the type of work on which he is likely to be employed during the first few years after the completion of his training.

A boy may obtain the training for his career in one of two ways. Many firms of Contractors, and many Chartered Civil Engineers, will take into their offices boys with a Schools Certificate, or Higher Schools Certificate, standard of education, and, paying them a nominal wage, will train them for several years in Civil Engineering practice. A few firms require that a premium be paid before they will employ a boy in this way. The second method of entry is through a course of study leading up to the B. Sc. degree in Engineering at one of the several University Colleges in this country.

Opinion is divided as to the representative merits attaching to these two methods of training. A man who has been trained in what may be called the "Practical School" gets a practical outlook coupled with a certain proportion of theoretical knowledge. His training is likely to be one-sided, as it is seldom that a man can get, in a few years of training, experience in all branches of a Civil Engineer's work. The University Student has the advantage that he is able to cover the whole field of Engineering knowledge from a theoretical standpoint. He is free, when leaving College, to take up whichever branch of the profession interests him. On the other hand, he will find that, though his promotion will be more rapid than that of the articulated trainee, his salary for the first year or so of his employment, at the age of 22 or 23, will be lower than that of the trainee of the same age.

The practice of Civil Engineering may be divided into three main branches.

The Consulting Engineer may be likened to the Harley Street specialist of his profession. When a large scheme of Public Works is envisaged, the Consulting Engineer is called in to prepare the Parliamentary Drawings and Specifications. When Parliamentary powers have been obtained, it is usual to employ the same Engineer to supervise the work during its construction. He prepares Drawings, Specifications, and Quantities, which are then priced by various Contractors in competition for the work. The Consulting Engineer reviews the tenders and recommends one that he thinks should be accepted. When one tender has been accepted, the Consulting Engineer appoints a Resident Engineer, whom he places in charge of the work, with perhaps one or more Assistant Engineers under him, depending on the size of the job. The position of the Resident Engineer is that of Arbitrator between his employers and the contractor, and also of Inspector. A young Engineer may be employed as Assistant Engineer on a contract, or he may work

in the office of the firm, preparing the drawings and designs for projected works. Direct entry into a Consulting Engineer's Office is uncommon, unless a man has had previous experience of Public works, or unless he is articulated as a Pupil, for several years.

Entry into a firm of Contractors is easy, and ensures a great variety of work, generally out of doors.

When engaged with a Contractor, a man will find that he is expected to move from one job to another in any part of the country, at very short notice.

A few Engineers are employed in the Head Office of the Contractor, estimating and tendering for new Contracts, but a man who has not had much practical experience will generally find that he will be sent as a junior Engineer on one of the contracts in hand. Here he will be working under the AGENT, who is the man representing the contractor, and is in sole charge of that particular job. Under him he may have one or more Engineers, and, if the size of the contract warrants it, one or more Quantity Surveyors. The Engineer's duties are always varied, but they will always include the setting out of the work on the ground, and the measuring up of the work for weekly progress reports, and for monthly claims for payment. The Contractor's Engineer works in close co-operation with the Resident Engineer, because the setting out and the carrying out of all work on the site must be to the satisfaction of the Resident.

Employment by Municipal or County Authorities offers a third opening for young Engineers. There is always a great deal to be done in the maintenance of the services of a town, in the building and reconstruction of roads, and in the provision and repair of river and sea defence works. Here the Municipal and County Engineer takes charge, and it is primarily upon his competence and efficiency that the comfort and health of the man in the street depends. The work is extremely varied, and is of the greatest importance in the welfare of the nation.

Although there is nothing to prevent any man from setting himself up as a Civil Engineer, no one can get far in the profession, unless he becomes a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Entry, in the first place, is by the Preliminary Examination, which may be taken up at the age of 25. The standard is about that of the Matriculation Examination, and this examination exempts from the Preliminary Examination, provided a certain standard in certain subjects notably Mathematics, has been attained. The Associate Membership Examination is taken in three parts. The first two approximate to the degree of B. Sc. in Engineering in standing, and this

Degree of most of the English Universities exempts from the first two parts of the examination. The third portion is compulsory, and is based on a minimum of three years practical experience under a Civil Engineer.

Thomas Telford, and a number of other leading Engineers of the day, formed a society for the "General advancement of Mechanical Science," and on the third of June, 1828, this society was Incorporated' by Royal Charter, and became "The Institution of Civil Engineers." In the Charter, the purposes of the Institution are laid down as follows: " - - promoting the acquisition of that species of knowledge which constitutes the profession of a Civil Engineer, being the art of directing the Great Sources of Power in Nature for the use and convenience of Mankind - - - in the construction of roads, bridges, aqueducts, canals, river navigation and docks - - - ports, harbours, moles, breakwaters, and lighthouses, and in the art of navigation by artificial power for the purposes of commerce, and in the construction and adaptation of machinery, and in the drainage of cities and towns."

D. C. V., 1939.

POEM FOR SEPTEMBER, 1938

When those of us had dreamed
Of the history unfurling in our desperate sky,
When we had embraced the vision
So fearfully held in the mind,
And been beckoned to its waiting shore,
Came the voice of the avalanche
Trembling in the valley of our bleeding birth.
To us, then, the logical dream of war
Under the Tropical net at night,
And the rational earthquake
Before dawn and the bathe in the sea
Were the falling tower seen from the sails of a ship
The Grecian death poise, wild-eyed, into the madman's ditch
When those of us had seen
That history unfurling in our desperate sky
The personality of our rooms became apparent
The atlas outspread upon our guilt absurd.

M. H. C. MARTIN.

HOCKEY

LENT TERM, 1939.

The weather, coupled with quarantine which interfered with matches, made conditions difficult. In spite of this there was more keenness than in previous year and the general standard was high.

The Club XI had more fixtures than the Hirst XI because they played several matches while the school was in quarantine. Mr. Lee-Browne, Mr. Gross, Mr. Richards and Mr. Wright filled the same positions as they did last year. This XI only suffered one defeat, the first for some time.

The First XI did not do so well, as they lost the only two matches they were able to play.

Spencer as a goal-keeper is at times very good. If he would learn to use his stick he could be first rate.

Wyon, formerly a half, made a very good back. Neads is an enthusiastic, hard-tackling defender but is still too erratic.

Hyett is a good defensive half but his attacking play lacks imagination.

Harmer was a promising left half and has the asset of speed in recovery.

Gillham played at centre half and assisted both attack and defence. In his second year as Captain he was again a great strength to the team.

The forward line was good but lacked a centre with real drive. Gallop, on the left wing, was fast and a great asset to the side. He started many movements which ended in goals.

Short, at inside left, was very effective in the field but in the circle his shots too often lacked power.

A. S. C. Smith, in the centre of the line, shot some good first-time goals but still lacks the stick work and thrust in the field which are essential for centre forwards.

Lane played good forcing hockey at inside right, and Bates, although inclined to "wander", was effective on the right wing.

1st XI MATCHES

Wed., March 15th—DEAN CLOSE 2nd XL Away. Lost 2—3

This was a fast equal game and it was not until the final whistle had gone that defeat was certain. The winning goal was scored 10 minutes from the end. If anything we had more of the play than our opponents.

Sat., March 25th—OLD BOYS. Home. Lost 1—3.

This was also a fast vigorous game. We scored first but Old Boys shot two goals and then kept us out. Their last goal was scored from a break away at the very end. Our forwards lacked shooting power.

CLUB XI MATCHES

Sat., February 4th—BEDFORD STRAGGLERS. Away. Lost 1—2

This was a most unsatisfactory game. Starting nine aside owing to the late arrival of some of our opponents, the match was further marred by a wet and 'muddy pitch and by refereeing which though voluntary (and appreciated as such) did nothing to help.

Sat., February 11th—CIRENCESTER HOCKEY CLUB

Away. Won 5—1.

An enjoyable match for which the conditions were almost ideal. Our forward line played well together, and they and the halves had most of the game.

Sat., February 18th—ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Home. Won 3—0.

The pitched played better than usual, but as it was soft it got cut up towards the end. Potentially the R. A. C. were the better side but a good game ended in our favour.

Sat., February 25th—BEDFORD STRAGGLERS. Away. Won 3—2

We again visited Stroud and had a very vigorous game which was not, however, outstanding for the quality of the hockey.

Sat., March 18th—CIRENCESTER HOCKEY CLUB

Home. Won 6—0.

The weather was very cold and snow fell during part of the match. Most of the goals were, scored during the first half and during the second half we played a defensive game. Cirencester were without their best players.

RUNNING

It is a pity that there is so little enthusiasm in the school for running. There are still a large number of entries for the Junior Lodges but the entrants for the other runs are few, and the standard low.

RESULTS

JUNIOR LODGES—

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1.... D. Hill | 16 mins. 29 secs. |
| 2.... R. A. S. Primrose | 17 mins. 7 secs. |
| 3.... N. P. Morris | 17 mins. 19 secs. |

SENIOR LODGES—

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. E. R. S. Gillham | 13 mins. 48 secs. |
| 2. B. H. Harben | 14 mins. 55 secs. |
| 3. A. R. Tenty | 17 mins. 25 secs. |

NORTH CERNEY—

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1.... E. R. Morris | 27 mins. 41 secs. |
| 2.... D. F. Gallop | 29 mins. 6 secs. |
| 3.... P. Binks | 29 mins. 6 secs. |

In this race Lane and Harben who would otherwise have been 1st and 2nd inadvertently went off the course and were disqualified.