

RENDCOMB COLLEGE
MAGAZINE

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Rendcomb College Magazine

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JUNE, 1941

SCHOOL NOTES.

Lent Term, 1941.

There is an adage that says "Misfortunes never come single"—another version of "It never rains but it pours"—and we must confess that Lent Term was in some ways a "lean" term, though it had its compensations, and ended considerably more brightly than it had begun.

Owing to domestic difficulties we started a week late. A school, no less than an army, has, in Napoleon's phrase, "to march on its stomach." A kitchen without cooks and it little matters what "Higher Fare" may be forthcoming from the labs, and the library.

To make up the number of periods lost by our late reassembly, afternoon classes were held on Tuesdays right through the Term, and Monday afternoon, for the first half of the Term, also became part of the school time-table. This was felt to be preferable to a curtailment of the Easter vacation.

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Mr. Young was called up on the first day of Term. He joined an R. A. F. Initial Training Wing, and Mr. Wilson and Mr. James—as arranged—took over the teaching of Latin.

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Illness prevented three members of the Staff from resuming work. Mrs. Manifold was away until the last week in February. During her absence Dr. K. Lassally came to us from Cheltenham to look after French.

Mr. Shimmin, who had been seriously ill, was forced to give up his teaching here for the whole Term. His place was taken by Miss Carnell.

We were lucky—in the present difficulties—to be able to get two valuable substitutes to come at such short notice. Miss Carnell, in addition to teaching music, took over the secretarial duties of Miss Colles during the latter's absence.

Miss Sumner came to us at the beginning of Term as Assistant Matron.

We had no cases of serious illness, but there were, off and on, a good number of people in the rest room—a factor which made the fitting in of rehearsals a matter of difficulty and compelled the Puppeteers to postpone their show.

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As an economy and a convenience in the general running of things arrangements were made for the Resident Staff to take their evening meal in Hall except at the week-ends. It will be agreed generally that this has worked satisfactorily. Supper is still an informal meal, and a good time for talking. The new arrangement has considerably lightened the problems on the kitchen front.

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It is perhaps worth recording that while we were depleted in numbers at meal-times we tried the experiment of dispensing with the table list for a short time. It worked quite well in the circumstances, but clearly could not be considered as other than a provisional expedient.

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The Term was marked by quite a deal of musical activity which is being reported under a separate heading. Under Miss Carnell singing lessons for the entire school were held in the Music Room on Friday mornings.

Miss Carnell also gave liberally of her time to those who were interested in “Sing-songs,” and she introduced us to a new form of entertainment by her production of two mimes.

The Library is also indebted to her for the gift of books to the music section.

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School Examinations were held at mid-Term, commencing on March 3rd. A new departure was made in the manner in which the results were shown. Numerical percentages were abandoned for Forms III, IV and V and the marks were presented under groupings of A, B, C, and D.

Classes for Confirmation Candidates were held by the Rev. L. G. Allum who is no stranger to us.

On Thursday, 20th March, the Lord Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Rev. Dr. A. C. Headlam, conducted a Confirmation Service in Rendcomb Church during the course of which he gave a simple but memorable address. Mr. Allum came over and held the customary early celebration of Holy Communion which was attended by those who had been confirmed.

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Our sympathy goes out to Miss Lister on the occasion of the death of her mother which occurred at Liphook, Surrey, on the 26th February, 1941.

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We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Neal on the birth of a son (David) which took place on the 9th October, 1940.

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On 21st March an opportunity was arranged for those of us who had not seen 'The Great Dictator' to go in and view it at a matinee in Cirencester. This is not the place for a discussion on the merits or defects of the film. Like all outstanding new works of art it provoked violently opposed comment. But we feel that the visit has been a good precedent which might be made use of again when something really exceptional comes along.

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Two boys left at the end of Term.

J. R. Harmer who has gone to take up journalistic work, and E. R. Morris who has entered Wadham College, Oxford, as a History Scholar. Our good wishes accompany them.

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We extend our Salvete to R. W. T. Buckingham.

HONOURS.

E. R. Morris: Methuen Scholarship in History at Wadham College, Oxford.

**THE GENERAL MEETING.
Officers, Summer Term, 1941.**

Chairman—E. J. Powell.

Council—A. S. C. Smith, M. A. Bullen, L. H. Hyett, E. J. Powell, A. W. Morris, C. E. H. Tuck, M. A. C. Levett.

Meeting Selection Committee—A. S. C. Smith, C. E. H. Tuck, L. H. Hyett, M. A. Bullen, E. J. Powell.

House Committee—S. J. Curry, J. Amsden, R. Brain, L. H. B. Hatherell, F. J. Sime, S. H. Groves.

Games Committee—H. S. Palmer, S. A. Trayhurn, L. H. Hyett, A. R. Margetts, S. J. Curry.

Tennis Groundsmen—S. A. Trayhurn, M. A. C. Levett.

Senior Shopman—J. Owen.

Shopmen—D. H. Hill, N. P. Morris.

Banker—L. H. B. Hatherell.

Breakages Man—G. W. H. Bodman.

Secretary—A. W. Morris.

Auditors—D. G. Taylor, J. F. Alder.

Apprentice Auditors—J. M. Faulks, A. F. Harrison.

Finance Committee—J. J. North, B. W. Plenderleith, M. C. Harries.

Entertainments Committee—D. A. C. Smith, J. Owen, D. Montgomery, M. J. Bedwell, F. J. Sime.

Cycle Men—P. Binks, J. J. North, M. Jefferies.

Paperman—D. H. Hill.

Meeting Almoner—F. T. Luffman.

Athletics Committee—L. H. Hyett, S. A. Trayhurn, J. W. H. Neads.

Amplifier Committee—F. H. Dutton, D. A. C. Smith, P. A. Cutts, M. A. Bullen, P. Binks.

Magazine Committee—D. Montgomery, S. A. Trayhurn, F. J. Sime.

Drying Room Committee—M. J. Bedwell, P. Binks, H. P. Lecky.

Games Wardens— Hockey: R. Brain.
Football: D. M. Grant.
Cricket: J. C. Beck, R. Brain.
Tennis: P. Binks, H. P. Lecky.
Indoor: C. C. Richardson.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

We have pleasure in recording the wedding of Captain K. A. C. Gross, Royal Artillery, to Miss Susan Law which took place at Ilkley, Yorkshire, on the 5th April, 1941.

Captain Gross is acting as Gunnery Instructor to a training unit. His short honeymoon leave was spent in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, and his present address is Springfield, Addingham, Yorks.

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J. D. Sinclair achieved his Wings in October of last year, and was commissioned as a Sub-Lieutenant at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, in December.

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A. C. Magor has gone to Canada to complete his training as an Observer in the R. A. F.

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F. R. Dobbs is in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

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R. M. Ingleton, having joined the Royal Marines and become a N. C. O. has now been given a commission in the Royal Marine Mobile Naval Base Defence Organisation.

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R. A. T. J. Skelton has been promoted to Corporal in the Royal Marines.

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C. E. Coles, after service as a signaller in the R. N. V. R., has been given a commission.

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E. J. Clissold is in the Accounts Section of the Air Ministry. He is a member of the Home Guard, and also acts as Fire Watcher.

Norman Slade has been elected President of the Bristol Galenicals, the University Medical Society. We hear indirectly that David Morison is enjoying life with his Corps, but have not heard from him for some time. N. W. Durham, A. C. Wager and C. Eyles have completed their training as Signallers and are waiting to be sent overseas.

SIR FRANCIS HYETT.

We regret to record the death of Sir Francis Hyett who died at Painswick House on the 19th May, in his ninety-sixth year.

His long life was spent in public service, and Gloucestershire is indebted to him in many ways.

He was a Governor of this College and deeply interested in its welfare.

He had held many offices. He was an original member of the Gloucestershire County Council, and had been its Chairman. For many years he was Chairman of the County Education Committee. He was President of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society and devoted much of his leisure to bibliographical and antiquarian research.

Gloucestershire seems to have the gift of inspiring devotion in her sons. Among those who have unstintedly given of their best to the County that bred them Sir Francis Hyett has earned an honourable place.

MUSIC.

We had three concerts this Term, not counting sundry occasions of our own making. This, we think, must constitute a record.

On January 31st we had a return visit from Mr. Parry Jones. He brought with him Miss Nancy Evans—a delightful soprano—and their programme included some most enjoyable operatic selections into which they threw themselves with zest. It is no slight task to undertake to sing the big final duet from Bizet's "Carmen" without any of the adventitious aids a stage-setting provides. (They had not even the initial eminence supplied by the customary platform). But they got through it magnificently. Indeed their vocalism was only excelled by the volume of the applause.

Their recital, however, was memorable for other things. Perhaps the one that stands out clearest was Miss Nancy Evans' singing of Delius' lovely wistful "Abendstimmung."

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On the 12th February, Dr. Lassally gave a recital of violin music.

He played nothing ambitious. But he revealed himself as a more than usually talented amateur with a delightful lyrical sense. Especially enjoyable was the Bach Aria for the G string, and the Tchaikovsky Serenade. Miss Alway acted as accompanist.

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On Sunday afternoon, 9th March, we had a concert given by Miss Barlow and Miss Stanfield. These two enterprising musicians (cellist and pianist) are turning their talents to war-time purposes by giving recitals in aid of Red Cross Funds.

They were nothing it not vigorous in their rhythm and execution, (*vif et animé*) and it is to be feared that the school Bechstein is hardly a suitable instrument for a *con bravura* attack on a Chopin Polonaise. (Or any other operation requiring shock tactics).

Their programme was wisely chosen, each item being prefaced by a short introductory comment. We were glad to note that as well as Saint-Saëns' "Le Cygne" they played some spirited settings of English folk-melodies.

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So much for the music played to us by our visitors. On Saturday, 8th March, we had a musical entertainment of our own making.

It included two mimes or tableaux vivants done to traditional ballads. The mime has much in common with what the Elizabethans would have called a dumb show. The action is done in costume, with properties, and dramatic gesture, but without speech.

For an initial attempt it was a charming performance. The first mime was of "Brennan of the Moor," a sort of Irish Robin Hood, who plundered the rich and gave to the poor, but who for all his Quixotry ends on the gallows tree.

The ballad was sung by a choir of juniors. D. Montgomery played the part of Brennan; B. W. Plenderleith was his wife; R. T. Wood was a pedlar; D. M. Grant, a poor beggar, whom Brennan assists; N. P. Morris, a rich man, one of the victims; A. F. Harrison, the Mayor, before whom the culprit was brought; M. J. Tarrant, the judge who pronounced sentence, and D. H. Hill and J. J. North, two soldiers who assisted at the arrest.

The second mime was shorter, less dramatic and more lyrical. It represented the wooing of a fair lady—J. M. Murry, by C. E. H. Tuck—a wealthy young burgher of Canterbury who offered her sundry gifts to advance his suit. The lady capitulated over a silken gown. C. V. Munroe was a page-boy.

In addition to the mimes there were several vocal items.

A staff quartet, Mrs. Lee-Browne, Miss Carnell, Mr. Lee-Browne and Mr. Richards sang some madrigals and Southern spirituals. We liked specially their "Swing low sweet chariot."

Mr. Richards, A. W. Morris and S. A. Trayhurn contributed several part-songs by Schubert and ended up with "Here's a health unto His Majesty."

LECTURES.

On Thursday, 20th February, Dr. Lassally gave a talk to the Upper School on "Two Centuries of German History, 1740-1940." From the nature of things his talk had to be limited to giving us a rapid bird's eye view. But one knew he spoke with authority and his account of recent developments was most interesting.

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On Saturday, 1st March, Mr. H. Binks, gave a lecture on "Carburation." He illustrated his talk with a section of a modern carburettor and by means of blackboard sketches. Naturally most of it was technical. He described the accuracy necessary in jet adjustment. He also dealt with the practice followed in aero engine design, and mentioned the problems that arise with fuels other than petrol. An evening that was much enjoyed.

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On Monday, 17th March, Mr. Neal lectured on "Looking at Nature through the Camera." He illustrated it by

episcope projections of his own delightful photographs. He stressed the importance of getting a good background and of the necessity of good lighting, especially such as will bring out tonal values in contrast. Among others he showed us fine views of a moorhen's nest; of our own rarely-seen kingfisher; of pee-wits and woodpeckers illustrative of protective colouring, and one of the badgers taken by flashlight.

ACTING.

“MORAL.” By the Members of Form IV.

Once again we were privileged to see plays written and produced by boys. For the last few terms the number of plays which have been “home-produced” has shown a marked increase and we would wholeheartedly encourage these efforts.

The first of these plays was entitled “Moral.” On the whole it provided good entertainment although the construction of the play was rather involved. The authors had obviously found it very difficult to keep a continuity of dialogue, so that in some parts action was still going on but without speech. The acting, however, was good, and it was especially gratifying to hear the native accents attempted with such success. The acting of A. F. Harrison as the Fortuneteller and B. W. Plenderleith as the foreign agent deserves special praise. The rest of the cast consisted of F. T. Luffman as an Irishman, D. M. Grant as a Scotchman, N. P. Morris as an Englishman, J. J. North as a Seaman, and J. F. Alder as the Postman. R. T. Wood was the *Compère*.

“Something Unforseen,” by N. C. Stone and J. R. C. Baillie

This second play was quite an excellent one. It was noteworthy for its clarity and the subtlety of the plot. The thief's alibi and the subsequent evidence produced to prove it false, revealed considerable skill on the part of the authors. The thief's accomplice stated that she had seen him silhouetted by the electric light against the curtains of his sitting-room window at the precise time that the crime was being committed. The crisis comes when a note is found in the thief's letter box stating that on that evening his electricity will be cut off.

The play was produced by the authors. J. Owen was very good as the glamorous Annette and we would give due praise to the artists responsible for “her” makeup. N. C. Stone as Henry Cook, Annette’s accomplice, and J. Baillie as Ali, the “fence,” were in their element. The remaining characters, a plain clothes man and Trent, his assistant, were convincingly played by A. W. Morris and M. A. C. Levett respectively.

“Campbell of Kilmohr.” by J. A. Ferguson.

In presenting J. A. Ferguson’s play “Campbell of Kilmohr,” both the actors and producer set themselves a formidable task, and it is therefore no slight to them to say that the play did not reach a high standard of acting. The theme of the action is well known—the flight of Bonnie Prince Charlie after the ‘45 and the subsequent hunt for him. J. R. C. Baillie as Mary Stewart and B. W. Plenderleith as Morag Cameron both failed to make their voices wholly audible and did not adequately convey the impression of suspense and anxiety over the safety of Dugald, Mary’s rebel son. D. M. Grant made a promising if somewhat treble Dugald. R. T. Wood lacked sufficient force as Campbell of Kilmohr, but nevertheless conveyed something of the craft and guile that is the perquisite of the informer. R. A. S. Primrose cut an imposing figure as Captain Sandeman, while J. J. North as Mackenzie, the clerk at law, and R. Brain and D. Hill as two soldiers achieved a presentable efficiency.

“Thirty-Fifth Street,” by J. R. Harmer.

This was the third play of J. R. Harmer’s to appear on the Rendcomb stage. Though very slight—a fragmentary sketch only—it was, we believe, his best. For this was no mere gangster “rough-stuff.” Behind it there was a definite satirical intention. He held the mirror up to nature and then demolished mirror and all with a quick-shooter. The weapon used was wit; the method employed a deft and even cynical lightness of touch on the trigger.

The scene was a gangsters’ hide-out. The setting was intentionally drab and make-shift. We liked the touch of the washing hung up on the line, and the naked electric light bulb.

These gangsters were relaxing. Their shooting—we were to understand—was entirely informal. And part of their relaxation consisted in the imbibing of poetry. (Verse-effects supplied by Ella Wheeler Wilcox). This was delightfully handled. It did not, however, prevent the party from being rather a dead-end sort of affair. It tailed off into a dance. A dreary nostalgic “blue” into which the Boss stalked with the partnership of his “gun-moll,” Sally. There was a note of exquisite boredom in this. And it was what was intended.

For the excellence of this show was that of the author-actor-producer knowing exactly what he wanted to convey and putting it across.

It remains to be said that his cast entered fully into his intentions.

Superficially much might appear to suggest a mere “rough house.” Actually there was really finished acting and timing.

The cast was as follows

“The Boss”—J. R. Harmer.

His Boys—E. R. Morris, J. A. Cunnison and H. S. Palmer.

Sally, “a gun-moll”—C. E. H. Tuck.

The play was produced in Big School on the 26th March.

EVOLUTION GONE WRONG.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon
Droop to the Frontiers of the Mind,
Within the leaf the liquid light
Transmits the senseless rhythm of a wall.

Forget the laughter and the tears:
Songs are sung in the Dancing Glade.
Forget the thoughts that hang together—
The maze condemning spoken years.

The Frontiers of the Mind are dim,
Mist creeps along the jungle path.
Beyond the path lakes glitter in the sun
And sun adores the restless feet.

Sun knows no sense in leaf or love,
Sun silences the ready tongue.
The bather by the reedy edge
Must burst the might to face the spear-thrust.

Be silent then, you bitter mind,
Too cruel the conclusions you laugh back.
But in the focus of the burning glass
A puff of smoke is lost no man regrets.

W. Y. W.

HOCKEY.

Lent Term, 1941.

Hockey was once again late in beginning. Owing to Tuesday being made a full school day, we had not so much time for practice as we would have liked. However, what games there were we enjoyed, and there was much keenness. Referees were again a difficulty. Miss Alway proved a great help in this and took over the Juniors.

Out of a possible eight matches only four were played— one Club XI match and three School games. Powell was goalkeeper and his play, especially his kicking, was consistently reliable. Tuck and Trayhurn were backs and played well, both having good clearances, although Trayhurn possibly underestimated his opponent at times.

The halves were A. W. Morris, Hyett and Curry. All possessed good stamina and a fair amount of skill; but were inclined to play too defensive a game.

At outside-left, Neads' speed was a great asset, but his centres tended to be very erratic and he hung back too much. Harmer, Levett and E. R. Morris played inside and Palmer outside-right. Harmer was new to his position and took a little time settling down but had a good turn of speed and showed the makings of a really good inside left. E. R. Morris and Levett both played a vigorous game and showed great determination near the circle, although Levett was inclined to muddle at times.

Palmer played well on occasions and got across some good centres.

Taken together, the forwards would have benefited from more combination, especially among the insides, but making allowance for the shortness of the season it was probably the best line we have had in recent years. This was also true of the team as a whole. It lacked individual brilliance but it played together and improved throughout the term in a way that augurs well for the future.

Hyett was a sound and keen captain. Lack of experience was no fault of his but due to the weather in previous seasons. He was sufficiently concerned with his job at centre-half to make it not easy for him to keep on eye on the team as a whole. If he is with us next year he should be very good indeed.

Bedford Street Stragglers. Away Lost 4—3.

The Stragglers had a good team and the game was hard. We attacked more strongly in the second half and time prevented us from equalising.

Lydney Grammar School. Away. Lost 3—2.

This match was fast and vigorous both sides pressing hard. Our defence played well and had there been a little more co-operation amongst the forwards we would have done much better.

Dean Close 2nd XI. Away. Lost 3—1.

This was our first fixture with them for two years. The earlier part of the game was fairly even but they pressed hard in the second half and we had difficulty at times to keep the ball out of the circle.

Lydney Grammar School. Home. Lost 4—0.

Neads, Curry and E. R. Morris were not able to play in this match. Our team was weak and the clearances to the wings were not effective; the ball remained in our half almost the whole of the latter part of the game.

RUNNING.

The Senior and Junior Lodges Races were run on Monday, 24th March. The results were as follows: —

Senior Lodges.

1. A. W. Morris—14mins. 9secs.
2. C. E. H. Tuck—14mins. 46secs.
3. P. G. Forrest—15mins. 24secs.

Junior Lodges.

1. R. T. Lindsay—16mins. 50 secs.
2. R. I. G. Hale—17mins. 6 secs.
3. J. F. Alder—17mins. 41secs.

There was an entry of 4 for the Senior, and of 7 for the Junior Lodges.

Owing to the small field for the North Cerney this race was postponed.