

RENDCOMB COLLEGE  
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# Rendcomb College Magazine

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## CANON HENRY SEWELL.

1847—1943

Events long foreseen as likely, when they come to pass, often strike one with a suddenness no less than the unexpected. So it was with the news of Canon Sewell's death. In a sense it brought us no surprise. We knew him to be an old man in his ninety-fifth year. Often—if we thought—we might well wonder how long he would be spared to us, but his indomitable spirit seemed so tenacious of life that we had come to regard him as a landmark whose sudden removal brought a real shock.

Those of our generation never knew him as he was at the height of his powers. To most of us he was but a venerable figurehead, white-haired, benevolent, who came on Founder's Day— often at great expense of energy to himself, and who, when he came, had perhaps little to say to us beyond the conventional words of a platform dignitary. Yet behind those words we could not fail to recognise that there was a man who had\*fully realised our Founder's intention; who had taken upon him, in season and out of season, to remind us of our rich inheritance.

We knew that he cared for Rendcomb. That he regarded it with special pride. That when he had to abandon other tasks he gave all of his surviving energies to the welfare of this school. It was never out of his thoughts. Those who were in close contact with him to the last knew more than this. They were aware of his shrewd judgment, his unremitting attention to detail, his foresight and endurance. Where we have lost a symbol they have lost a counsellor and friend.

We are glad to think that for our part Canon Sewell knew how we regarded him. If he gave much to Rendcomb, we can rejoice that Rendcomb gave much to him. If it made many calls upon his strength it helped to fill his latter years with interest. Our successes were part of his success.

A man who throws himself with the fervour that he did into public affairs must make many sacrifices. Inevitably he meets enemies as well as friends. The way of a pioneer is never easy. But there are other more personal sacrifices entailed by a life of such service.

For himself Canon Sewell took little thought. Spent differently his talents and his energy might have brought him wealth and all those pleasant and intimate ties so dear to most men.

As it was, his old age found him in some ways strangely alone. That loneliness his contacts with Rendcomb, with his fellow governors and the headmaster, did something to break.

We are glad to think he has found his last resting place here in our midst. It was his wish that this should be so, and where his heart is, there his spirit will be always.

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Canon Sewell was born at Upton-on Severn in the year 1847. His father came of a legal family and his mother was the daughter of a clergyman who had been headmaster of the Grammar School at Nottingham. Owing to a delicate childhood he was educated privately, but he proceeded to Cambridge where he took his B. A. degree in 1868, and M. A. in 1872. It was natural that he should be drawn to Holy Orders and he was ordained in 1870. His first living was that of Aldsworth, a parish between Bibury and Burford, and in 1881 he was appointed Vicar of Wotton-under-Edge.

Early in life he had begun to turn his thoughts to the advancement of the cause of education. At Wotton he became a Governor of the Grammar School, but his interests were not restricted to his own parish. He took the whole of Gloucestershire as a field for his activities-and his services were so valuable that his bishop suggested that he should accept the vicarage of Sandhurst, where he would be nearer the Shire Hall and better able to attend the numerous committees that claimed his attention. From that time on his career shaped itself. He set himself to do everything in his power to bring a secondary education within the reach of all classes of the community.

A long list would be required to enumerate all the boards and governing bodies with which he was connected. He was Chairman of the Governors of many secondary schools, Chairman, too, of the Technical Schools Committee at Gloucester, and from its inception he was an untiring member and chairman of the County Higher Education Committee. As representative of the County on the Senate of the University of Bristol he did valuable work and it was in recognition of his abundant services that he was asked in 1932 to accept the honorary degree of LL. D. of that University.

He succeeded the Founder as Chairman of the Governing Body of Rendcomb College in 1927.

Such a catalogue makes dull reading. One is inclined to forget the man and think only of the chairman, but he brought a personal touch to everything he undertook.

It is for others to speak of his work as a parish priest. If we have dwelt on his services to education it is because it was in that sphere he was known to us, and because when declining years compelled him to give up most of his County activities, he still continued to spend himself on our behalf.

He lived a full life—the life of his own choosing—and we are glad to think he was spared to see so much of his work bear fruit and to win the widespread recognition that was his due.

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The funeral took place at Rendcomb on Wednesday afternoon 12th June, 1943. It was a peaceful summer day with the trees in full leaf. A double line of boys stood silent and motionless, flanking the pathway from the gate to the church. Waiting at the gate were: Rev. H. F. N. Inge, rector of Rendcomb; the Rev. R. Harwood, Vicar of St. Mark's, Gloucester; the Headmaster and Mr H. St. G. Rawlins (representing the Governors).

The coffin bearing a cross of flowers was carried shoulder high in procession to the church. Walking behind it came Mrs Glover (Canon Sewell's housekeeper), her sister, Mdme. Giorgis, Miss K. Butt, Mr T. F. Humphris (people's warden of Sandhurst), and with them Mr Lee-Browne and Mr Rawlins. The guard of honour followed.

After a very simple service in the church conducted by Mr Inge, and with music sung by the school choir, the ceremony at the graveside took place, the committal prayer being read by the Vicar of St. Mark's.

Flowers and stillness, the peace of heavy summer, the quiet bearing of all those standing by—that is what one remembers of an occasion that could not have been more befitting in its sincerity and restraint.

The following were among those present in the church: —Mrs Huntly Sinclair (Misarden Park); Mrs Lee-Brown; Miss Schooley, H. M. I.; the Dean of Gloucester, the Very Rev. H. Costley-White, D. D.; Colonel Lloyd Baker; Mr W. R. Watkin; Mr Luckley; Mr B. W. Taylor; Mr J. H. Gurney; Mr T. Frazer; Mr Walter Nicholas; Mr James Eyre; Mr C. D. Waters; Mr G. E. Arthurs; Mr G. H. Bryant; Mr W. W. Whiteman, Churchwarden at Sandhurst and Mrs Whiteman; Mr and Mrs R. J. W. I. Whiteman; Miss R. Whiteman; Mr R. R. Dobson; Mr J. C. James; Mr A. G. G. Richards; Mr R. N. D. Wilson; Mr E. G. Neal.

Wreaths were sent by: Mrs Glover, Mrs Huntly Sinclair, Mrs Dorrington, Mr and Mrs W. W. Whiteman, Mr and Mrs R. J. W. I. Whiteman, Mr and Mrs D. W. Lee-Browne, the Vicar and Churchwardens of Sandhurst, Messrs. Thomas and Sons and the Estate Staff at Abloads Court, and the boys of Rendcomb College.

## SCHOOL NOTES.

### Lent Term, 1943.

Lent Term this year will be remembered for one of the mildest winters and earliest springs on record. We came back to College on Friday, 15th January. The holidays had been bright and sunny and this weather continued almost without a break throughout the whole of Term. Those who prophesied snow were disappointed and we had no illness. The result was a Term that in no small way compensated for the interruptions of the previous one.

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Mr D. B. Frowd joined the staff at the beginning of Term to take charge of the workshop. To him we extend our welcome.

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It is becoming a truism to state that the work of the First-Aid Parties and Fire Fighters continued unabated, but Wednesday, 3rd February, witnessed a full-dress A. R. P. practice which entailed some snappy work on the roof of the College, at the House, and the Laboratories. This sudden call, to three fronts simultaneously, proved a searching test, and valuable experience was gained. During the course of the Term two A. R. P. talks were given by Mr E. Walker in the General Laboratory. The first was devoted to the peculiarly unpleasant type of incendiary bombs now in vogue. The second described the technique to be adopted in rescuing personnel from crashed aircraft. Both lectures were open to the village.

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The first big event of Term was the production of *The Beaux' Stratagem*. The village came to the dress rehearsal on Friday, 5th February, and the school performance took place on Saturday 6th February. We were glad to welcome quite a number of guests who joined the actors in a green room supper after the show. Among those who came were Colonel and Mrs Oldridge whom we were very pleased to see in our midst again.

\* \* \* \*

Miss K. Beswick visited us on Monday, 8th February, and stayed the greater part of the week.

\* \* \* \*

During the Term classes for Confirmation candidates were conducted by the Rev. L. G. Allum, of Sheepscombe. We are grateful to him for giving so much of his time to a small group.

For the rest, apart from various acting and musical activities and the puppet play—all reported elsewhere—there has been little else to record.

On Sunday, 14th March, there was an A. R. P. film in Cirencester, and on Tuesday, 16th March, we had an exhibition of Ministry of Information films in Big School which was attended by the village.

\* \* \* \*

George Hayward who died at North Cerney on March 4th, 1943, was a prominent local figure who from his youth upwards had the closest connection with this place. As a boy of nine he entered the service of Sir F. H. Goldsmidt, Bart., who built the mansion that is now the College. He did not, however, remain permanently at Rendcomb, but went to London for a time, and then to Bristol, where he learnt his craft as a carpenter and builder. Following his return to Rendcomb, Mr Hayward became a factor to the syndicate which bought the Rendcomb property on the death of Mrs Taylor. He acquired a knowledge of all the intricacies of this building. He knew its fabric from the cellars to the tower, and this knowledge was to stand in good stead when he was called in to advise upon alterations. He was always ready to place his knowledge at the disposal of the College. Among the more important jobs which he did here was the building of the Cricket Pavilion, and the conversion of what had formerly been the conservatory into the present Gymnasium.

His death in his 78th year removes a man whose whole life had been part of his native surroundings, and whose services to the College we wish to put on record.

\* \* \* \*

It is nearly two years since Mrs Mills retired from her post on the domestic staff of the College. She had completed twenty- one years of faithful service, and could claim to be our oldest retainer. Actually it was through Mr George Hayward that she first came to the College. She has many memories of Rendcomb in its earlier days, but one more recent is perhaps worth recalling. On the occasion of our expedition to the Aldershot Tattoo, Mrs Mills as the senior household employee accompanied us and shared all the excitements of that outing, including the midnight ride back.

She has well and truly earned the retirement that we trust she may be long spared to enjoy.

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We acknowledge with thanks the useful gift of a box of artist's materials which was given to the Art Room by Miss V. M. Ward;

likewise a set of carving tools sent by Mrs Wilson from Northern Ireland, and we are also indebted to Mr N. L. Elson for a splendid supply of balsa wood.

\* \* \* \*

School Examinations commenced on 23rd March—a later date than usual, but it was thought better not to interrupt our academic work by holding them at mid-term. The last busy days of Term were filled up with many activities—a play on Saturday evening 27th March; the Senior Lodges on Monday 29th; the receipt of excellent scholarship news; and a most enjoyable dance on the last night of Term, Tuesday 30th March. By contriving to be born on that same night Paul Richards was in time to receive our acclamations just as we were going off for the Easter holidays on the morning of Wednesday 31st March.

\* \* \* \*

The following boys left at the end of Term; — A. F. Harrison and J. G. French. To them we extend our Valeté.

### HONOURS.

J. Owen. Demyship in Natural Science, Magdalen College, Oxford.  
S. J. Curry. Open Scholarship in Natural Science, St. Catharine's College, Cambridge.

### THE GENERAL MEETING.

#### Officers—Summer Term, 1943.

**Chairman**—D. Montgomery.

**Council**—C. E. H. Tuck, A. R. Margetts, D. Montgomery,  
J. Owen, W. P. Thomas, J. C. Beck, D. A. C. Smith.

**Meeting Selection Committee**—C. E. H. Tuck, A. R. Margetts,  
W. P. Thomas, D. Montgomery, J. Owen.

**House Committee**—M. C. Harries, I. M. Bryce, J. E. Carus-Wilson,  
C. B. Lane, J. M. Faulks, E. J. M. Jefferies.

**Games Committee**—D. A. C. Smith, D. H. Hill, D. Montgomery, J. Owen.

**Senior Shopman**—R. Brain.

**Shopmen**—J. J. North, N. P. Elson.

**Banker**—R. E. Hayward.

**Apprentice Banker**—M. R. F. Butlin.

**Breakages Man**—J. M. Henshaw.

**Secretary**—D. M. Grant.

**Auditors**—D. G. Knight, J. M. Faulks.

**Apprentice Auditors**—J. W. Sumsion, C. M. Carus-Wilson.  
**Finance Committee**—R. T. Lindsay, P. S. W. Beck, T. R. Morris,  
**Entertainments Committee**—C. C. Richardson, C. J. N. Richardson,  
 G. S. Davis, R. T. Lindsay, C. M. Carus-Wilson.  
**Cycle Shed Committee**—J. E. Carus-Wilson, M. R. F. Butlin,  
 J. M. Trickett.  
**Meeting Almoner**—M. Butler.  
**Paperman**—P. A. T. Griffiths.  
**Amplifier Committee**—F. H. Dutton, M. C. Harries, J. E. Carus-  
 Wilson, N. P. Elson, N. M. Wood.  
**Magazine Committee**—D. Montgomery, N. C. Stone, W. P. Thomas  
**Drying Room Committee**—J. M. Trickett, C. M. Carus-Wilson,  
 R. M. Lewis.  
**Public Work Man**—N. C. Stone.  
**Football Games Secretary**—N. P. Morris.  
**Games Wardens**—Hockey, C. B. Lane; Tennis, N. M. Wood,  
 C. J. N. Richardson; Cricket, G. S. Davis, C. C. Richardson. Indoor,  
 J. D. M. Smith.  
**Record Committee**—F. H. Dutton, J. C. Beck, W. P. Thomas,  
 D. A. C. Smith, E. J. M. Jefferies.  
**Salvage Committee**—D. H. Hill, R. A. S. Primrose, J. F. Alder.  
**Price Committee**—M. C. Harries, J. C. Beck.

## **OLD BOYS' NOTES.**

### **Roll of Honour.**

- D. A. J. Richards. Corporal, Tank Regiment. Killed in Action in the Middle East, 2nd June, 1942. At Rendcomb September 1929—July 1934. Subsequently in business at Bristol until joining the Tank Regiment.
- \*            \*            \*            \*
- D. D. Haig, D. F. C., is now a Squadron Leader.  
 M. F. Lane is now a Sub-Lieutenant (electrical) in the Navy. He obtained the B. Sc. Engineering (Hons.) degree at London in the 1942 examination.  
 R. O. J. Cooper is now a Sergeant in the R. A. F.  
 G. T. Morgan is in the Royal Artillery in a Light Anti-Aircraft Battery.  
 A. W. Wyon has gone abroad with the Friends' Ambulance Unit.  
 R. F. Butler gives one of those naval addresses that tell one precisely nothing.  
 M. H. C. Martin having been invalided out of the Royal Canadian Air Force has now been appointed to a post with the British Council in Lisbon.

Dr. Norman Slade has been appointed to the Sudan Medical Service. He will be going to the Middle East Shortly and will probably be attached to the Forces there.

P. J. Dyke is now a Sergeant in the Royal Artillery.

F. J. Batten, who has been in the Bristol Police Force, has been called up for the R. A. F.

A. C. Wager is a P. O. W. in Malay.

T. Price is an acting-Sergeant in the Bristol Police Force.

B. H. Peacock, who obtained a First-Class Honours Degree in Civil Engineering at Bristol University in June, 1941, is now serving in the Home Guard as a machine gunner.

It is perhaps worth recording that Rendcomb is now represented in the Forces in the following parts of the world: —England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Shetlands, Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, India, Burma, Ceylon, Canada, U. S. A. and Australia, and in widely distant places where the Navy and Fleet Air Arm may be found.

E. J. Powell, who is working with Messrs. Parnell's Aircraft, passed the London Inter. B. Sc. Engineering examination in November, 1942.

After twelve years he have heard from W. B. Langdon-Davies, who writes from ██████Hather Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, where he has been since he left Rendcomb. He is with the B. C. Electric Railway Co., in the electrical distribution department which handles the planning, estimating and supervising of the construction of overhead electric lines. He started at the bottom and is now a draughtsman in the planning department. He is married and has a son who is nearly two years old.

W. S. Morgan has been appointed to a post in the Colonial Office, and is on his way to London.

The following Old Boys visited the College during Lent Term: — M. H. C. Martin, B. M. L. Simon, S. A. Trayhurn, H. S. Lecky, M. H. Fischer, P. Binks, P. D. B. Levett, J. F. Spencer, A. W. Morris, J. Amsden, R. M. Ingleton, P. B. Lane, P. J. Dyke, H. S. Palmer, J. C. Maslin, and E. B. Smith.

## ACTING.

### **"The Beaux' Stratagem," by George Farquhar.**

Produced on Saturday, 6th February. To embark on a school production of a restoration comedy seems almost like tempting Providence—or should one say the Muses? It requires tact. Assuredly certain cuts will have to be made and in propitiating the proprietries one may sacrifice much of the gusto. But this adaptation of Farquhar's comedy steered an admirable course. None of

the sparkle was lost. The acting demanded by a play of this sort is not the kind that comes naturally to amateurs, especially schoolboys. In an Elizabethan play one can hardly go far wrong. But restoration comedy requires a certain sophistication. Exuberance is not enough. It must be tempered by the foibles and conceits of the time. That was what made this production such an interesting experiment.

Straight parts such as those of Aimwell and Archer, the two young men of fashion, are far harder to play than those in which eccentricity or a natural sense of the comic can be exploited. For this reason Montgomery's and Beck's performances call for special notice. If they were rogues at heart they had to remember their drawing-room manners, and the intrusion of the farcical, of the over-acting that is permissible in the roistering scenes of, say, "Twelfth Night," would have spoiled the picture.

By comparison the grown-ups had an easier task. The ladies were excellently cast. Miss Carnell played the part of Lady Bountiful with just the right shade of intimate condescension. Mrs Lee-Browne, as the ill-treated wife of Squire Sullen, knew when to pout and when to smile. The Dorinda of Mrs Manifold was alternately flighty and coy. (Their dresses were exquisite.) Mr Molineaux had the right note of bluster as Squire Sullen. He made a very convincing rake. Bodman, as Sir Charles Freeman, had little to do but look courtly, which he did. So much for le beau monde.

In contrast to these was a group of characters drawn from low life. Here naturalism could look at its own face. Pride of place must be given to D. A. C. Smith's delineation of Boniface, the landlord of the inn at Lichfield. His slow, robust movements and his tricks of speech built up a Hogarthian picture.

F. H. Dutton as Scrub, the general factotum, was meant to be laughed at, as he was.

Foigard and Cherry (J. M. Murry and Miss Hatch) had their parts heavily cut, but they did their best with the bits that were left. The desperadoes of the road Gibbet (J. Owen) and Hounslow and Bagshot his accomplices (Thompson and D. H. Hill) were villainous in the traditional fashion. Lastly there was J. R. C. Baillie as a very winsome lady's maid, and N. P. Morris as a potboy.

The sets were simple and lent themselves to quick scene- changes. It was a good idea to utilise a portrait of one of our worthies for the country house scene, though one wonders what he would have thought of the distinction!

### **"Wanted—Mr Stuart," by Albert Watkyn.**

This play was produced and acted on February 20th by the boys from the middle part of the school. Such efforts deserve

every encouragement. We learn from our mistakes. In this case we felt that the play lagged. The dialogue should have been broken up more by action. The producer, G. S. Davis, did a dangerous thing by casting himself for one of the main parts, thereby adding to the difficulty of his first production. However, his acting of Philip Maunsell showed understanding and a good dramatic sense. D. G. Knight, as Sir Edgar Harcourt, tended, as in all his acting, to be too much himself. Though occasionally convincing, he lacks the feeling and sincerity required. M. Butler, as Charles II, disguised as Robert the waiter, played his role with calmness and dignity, and one could sense occasionally, though not always, that tenseness of mind and body, required of such a character. R. M. Lewis, as the landlord, and N. P. Elson to a lesser extent as Sergeant Tryon, did not express that strength of personality required, and seemed to lack interest. The timing throughout the play was good, the setting effective, but the grouping could have been improved by more variety.

**“Hob and the Shepherds”**

This charming little adaptation from the Wakefield Nativity Play was produced on 27th February as a curtain raiser to Yeats’ “Cathleen ni Houlihan.”

It was admirably chosen in that it provided a part for each member of Form II, who furnished the entire cast.

Half-way between a play and a mime it had all the gaiety of an early carol, and the players let themselves go with zest. The prologue showed a fifteenth century Knight and his lady in their hall. They are visited by strolling players who enact a humorous episode from an old Nativity play—the story of a shepherd who has stolen a lamb and disguised it as an infant in a cradle.

If we do not mention the players individually it is because all gave their best with a merriment that was passed on to the audience. The cast was as follows:

Sir Oliver Stallington .....	H. A. G. Hartley
Lady Stallington .....	J. A. Barclay
Hob (a sheep stealer) .....	K. J. Hanney
Gill (his wife) .....	R. J. Kendal
Matt and Wat .....	G. O. Williams, J. D. Draper

(two shepherds)

**“Cathleen ni Houlihan,” by W. B. Yeats.**

This one-act symbolist play is probably of all Yeats’ dramas the most effective on the stage. In Ireland its appeal to national sentiment was so direct that it could not fail to be evocative. But it is another thing to play it to an audience unfamiliar with its emotional content. That was why this production was so interesting.

One could not help comparing it with an Abbey Theatre production and, of course, one got something quite different. But it stood the transplanting. The result was a curious hybrid. The voice was the voice of Yeats, but the effect was that of Maeterlinck.

This was largely due to the producers' handling of the part of the Old Woman. R. T. Wood spoke the lines beautifully, but his Cathleen was dreamy and wistful, where a native player would have made her impassioned and commanding. Not that it was not moving. Only it was a different kind of emotion.

For the rest, the grouping, the lighting, the deliberate slow- motion of speech and gesture were very lovely. These players made us feel the human side of the drama and held our attention till the curtain fell. The cast was as follows:

Peter Gillane .....	D. M. Grant
Michael Gillane (his son) .....	W. P. Thomas
Patrick Gillane (a lad) .....	J. D. Smith
Bridget Gillane .....	D. G. Knight
Delia Cabel .....	J. W. Sumsion

**“The Road of Poplars,” by Vernon Sylvaïne.**

Produced on 13th March, 1943, this was the first time a play concerning the aftermath of war has been produced on the Rendcomb stage, and it dealt not with the physical aftermath, but with the emotional, the human flotsam inevitably thrown up on the beach as the tide of war recedes. Charley, an Englishman who has served in the trenches in the Great War, suffers from periodic outbursts of hysteria owing to a head injury he received during his service. He is the odd-job man in the estaminet to which a tourist, an English ex-officer, comes. The play deals with the mental reaction of the two men—the ex-officer fascinated by the scenes and memories of the fighting, haunted by his error of judgement which sent forty men to their deaths, and Charley, hopelessly unbalanced, his mental faculties shattered, still imagining he can see his comrades marching to their doom across the fields. The action reaches a climax when Richardson, a figure from the dead, enters the estaminet and Charley shoots the tourist to deliver him from his torments.

The performance of W. P. Thomas, as Charley, was definitely good. He let us see just enough of that character's agony of soul and mental torture. The whimsy humour and occasional outbursts of hysteria on the part of Charley were thrown into effective contrast. If he tended to monopolise the play too much this was the fault of R. T. Wood as the tourist, who had not the necessary presence to escape domination. He showed us the sensitivity of the man obsessed by mistakes of the past, but little of his bitterness. The Gallic temperament of N. M. Wood as Marianne contrasted

well with Charley's raucous outbursts. N. P. Morris and R. A. S. Primrose, as two Frenchmen, gesticulated in the conventional manner, and lastly the studied understatement and non-committal replies of M. C. Thompson as Richardson were exactly in accordance with the tenor of the play.

**“Two Gentlemen of Soho,” by A. P. Herbert.**

Produced Saturday, March 27th, 1943. “Two Gentlemen of Soho” is not one of A. P. Herbert's better works. The dialogue is long, in places tedious, the plot tends to drag, an atmosphere of unreality is present. Yet, in spite of these disadvantages, the cast managed to impart a zest and sparkle into their words which bespoke a good production.

A more unpleasant set than the characters in “Two Gentlemen of Soho” can scarcely be imagined. They seem to comprise that stratum of society which deems it its lot in life to haunt the vicinity of Soho by night. Titled reprobates and their hangers-on flit across the stage and the play consists of their various amours and misdemeanours, and finally of their deaths.

W. P. Thomas again displayed his versatility and took the part of the Sardanapalian Lord Withers, the languorous suitor of Lady Leticia, a coy lady portrayed with just the right note of piquancy by D. G. Knight. D. Montgomery excelled himself as the Duchess of Canterbury, a peroxide haridan of Valkyrian proportions with an unfortunate addiction for the bottle and for the saxophone. Hubert, a gigolo, and Topsy, a dancing partner, two drooping parasites, were admirably played by J. Owen and D. J. Dodwell respectively. N. C. Stone, imported from the Moscow underworld, sidled through the play with Trotskyist demeanour as Sneak, private investigator to the Duke of Canterbury. His wholesale indictments of the habitues of the “Colts and Fillies” produce belated repentance and floods of crocodile tears. J. M. Henshaw was his own admirable self as a Dickensian waiter who took an adverse delight in refusing customers their drinks. His phlegmatic utterances and elastic knees were delightful touches. Lastly, J. M. Murry, as Plum, a minion of the law—

“Dressed in the likeness of an English lord,” ended the proceedings by stabbing himself. His corpse was the eighth on the stage.

**THE PUPPET PLAYERS.**

The Puppet Players presented a show at Rendcomb House on Thursday, 11th March. It opened with “Professor Pingle's Treasure.” The scene was a quayside with an old inn and a galleon returned from the Spanish Main. The plot centred round

an attempt made by Pablo—a very sinister looking half-breed to make away with the treasure. In this he was foiled and all ended happily. It was one of the best things the Junior Players have done. It had romance and excitement and charm. The cast was as follows:

Professor Pingle ..... M. J. Morgan  
 Pablo, a half breed ..... J. D. Smith  
 Horace, a student ..... M. Brain  
 Captain Sam ..... L. V. Crawford  
 Will, his friend ..... R. Margetts  
 Tommy, a small boy ..... G. A. Lawrence

The Senior Players followed with a further instalment of the well known Muffins adventures entitled "Muffin in Make-up." The plot was highly involved, and it must be confessed a little inconsequential, but this is quite pardonable in an affair of this sort.

In the first scene Gregg—the master—gets debagged in an incident with a ferocious dog. The second shows him in his study attempting to take a photograph of the charming Paulette. He ends on his knees before that enchantress, only to have his proposal spurned.

The last scene provided an excellent contrast. Here we had the school stage set for the balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet." Muffin in "make-up" plays Juliet while Gregg's impassioned wooing as Romeo wins the heart of the formerly unresponsive Paulette. Clever use was made of the Shakespearean dialogue. The speaking throughout was good. Some people are reported to have said that "strong langwidge" was used—but this must have escaped the ears of the hardened reviewer.

As usual the sets were effective, the last scene adding a note of spectacular romance.

The cast was as follows:

Clay ..... W. S. Monroe  
 Maid ..... D. Henshaw  
 Gregg ..... R. T. Lindsay (Voice: P. S. Beck)  
 Muffin ..... R. W. T. Buckingham  
 Peewit ..... G. H. Bye  
 A Kid (with an accordion) ..... J. D. Menzies  
 Paulette ..... C. Carus-Wilson

**MUSIC.**

On Sunday, 7th March, a School Concert was given in the Music Room at 6:15 p. m. These events are interesting as symptomatic of the increased musical activity in the school. Naturally one does not expect a uniform level of attainment in such performances

so we do not propose to discriminate between items. It only remains to say that the concert ended on a right note of vigour in Parry's "England."

The following were the items:

Form I. "Santa Lucia," Italian Folk Song, arrgd. Granville Bantock.

Draper. 3 Short Pieces, Adam Carse.

Morris, T. 3rd Movement, Sonatina in G major, Clementi.

Knight, Sumsion, J. 1st and 2nd Movements, Sonata in B flat for 4 hands, Mozart.

Form II and Form III. "I know a bank," 2-part song, Martin Shaw.

Hale. National Song (from Lyric Pieces), Greig.

Baillie. Celtic Lullaby, Thomas Dunhill.

Beck, C., and M. A. C. Minuet and Trio from Symphony No. IV in D major (arrgd. piano duet), Haydn.

Wood, N. and K. M. (a) Bouree, Duet for Treble Recorders, Eccles;

(b) Weise, Treble Recorder and Guitar, Purcell.

Hanney and K. M. (a) Rustic Dance: Descant Recorder Duet, Bach;

(b) Czech Folk Song: Treble Recorder and Guitar, Anon.

Knight. Allegro in A minor (from "Sept Pieces"), Handel.

Form VI. Songs: (a) "Sea Fever," John Ireland;

(b) "Requiem," Sidney Homer.

Tuck, Curry. "Hexentanz," op. 17, Macdowell.

Wood, R. and M. A. C. 1st and 2nd Movements, Concerto in G major, op 38, for Violin and Piano, Friedrich Seitz.

Tuck. Waltz in C sharp minor, op. 64, No. 2, Chopin.

The School. "England," Parry.

### THE DEBATING SOCIETY.

The Debating Society still lives, even if its initial ardour is a little damp, and its proceedings deprived of much of their gusto and enthusiasm. That half of its members who deemed it convenient to attend meetings scarcely filled the room, and even Burke found it disheartening to perorate to empty benches. Still, out of the fifteen or so members who regularly attended there were not lacking able speakers. The Society met regularly, and on at least two occasions the speaking and discussion reached a high standard.

The most outstanding debate of the term was on the motion "that in the opinion of this House, man cannot escape being governed." The proposer and opposer of the motion and their respective seconders put forth able cases; the ensuing discussion was both well informed and showed an appreciation of the practical difficulties

of anarchy. One speaker waxed bold and even dipped into the classics to prove his point. The motion was lost 12—1.

The discussion on the place of private enterprise in industry would have been more instructive if the Society had had any first-hand knowledge of our industrial machine. There were plenty of opponents of private enterprise and the discussion which followed might have made Spencer turn in his grave, and have evoked faint echoes of praise from Marx and Engels ringing through the Elysian shades. The consensus of opinion was that some form of comprehensive planning was necessary to ensure that the individual did not become a prey to economic forces. A series of light, impromptu debates rounded off the term's proceedings.

### **HOCKEY.**

The 1943 Easter Term was a term in which we feel, in future years, many comparisons will be made. The weather was most favourable and full advantage was taken of it, with very satisfactory results. While the Dash Track awaited the arrival of more cinders and little labour was needed on the field, most of our P. W. effort was devoted to the collecting and saving of wood. This allowed several P. W. days to be converted into games days.

With more practice than usual, a shortage of umpires was noticeable, but this problem was temporarily eased by the help of both staff and boys to whom we were most grateful.

A general improvement in play was apparent throughout the school. This was especially so in the first game, where the majority grasped the essential differences between football and hockey.

The first XI was as follows: Forwards—Thompson, Owen, Murry, Smith, D. Hill. Halves: Thomas, Curry, Bedwell. Backs: Tuck, Margetts. A. R. Goalkeeper: Montgomery.

Morris and Brain, R. played in some matches.

The side, with no particularly outstanding individual, was well balanced, and produced the best team work so far seen at Rendcomb. The forward play was swift and harmonious. The satisfaction that they had behind them a firm defence helped them to avoid dropping back too far, with the result that there were admirable opportunities for the half-backs to make accurate passes.

Owen was a very successful goal scorer and both Murry and Smith were quick to take their chances inside the circle. Smith scored several goals from a fine angle, but this is not a practice to be encouraged. Hill combined speed and ball control, putting in good centres.

Curry backed up both forwards and defence well and did much to keep the play moving and fluid.

Clean clearances and good understanding among the backs and goalkeeper avoided melees in the goalmouth when we were hard pressed.

Margetts was a capable captain and a most useful player. The work of Seniors with Junior games was an encouraging feature of the season. Dash in the circle and better rushes from the goal line after corners have been hit should be two similar objectives for next year.

### **Fixtures.**

#### **Sunday, March 7th, v. R. A. F. XI. Home. Won 3—0.**

This game was more even than the score denotes. Our defence allowed very few shots at goal, and our passing and shooting was accurate.

#### **Wednesday, March 17th, v. Dean Close “A” XI. Away. Won 4—2.**

As in the previous match the play was not unevenly distributed but our forwards seized their opportunities quickly. In the second half the forward play lacked co-operation and as a result the ball was too frequently lost on the edge of the circle.

#### **Sunday, March 21st v. R. A. F. XI. Home. Won 2—1.**

Our team work improved towards the end of the game, when both of our goals were scored. More variation in our plan of attack in this game would almost certainly have produced better results.

### **RUNNING.**

The Junior Lodges was run on March 18th and the Senior Lodges on March 29th with the following results: —

#### **Senior Lodges.**

1. D. H. Hill. 13 mins. 21 secs.
2. J. C. Beck. 13 mins. 40 secs.
3. R. A. S. Primrose. 13 mins. 52 secs.

#### **Junior Lodges.**

1. R. Margetts. 16 mins. 3 secs.
2. G. O. Williams. 16 mins. 48 secs.
3. C. B. Lane. 16 mins. 53 secs.