

RENDCOMB COLLEGE
MAGAZINE

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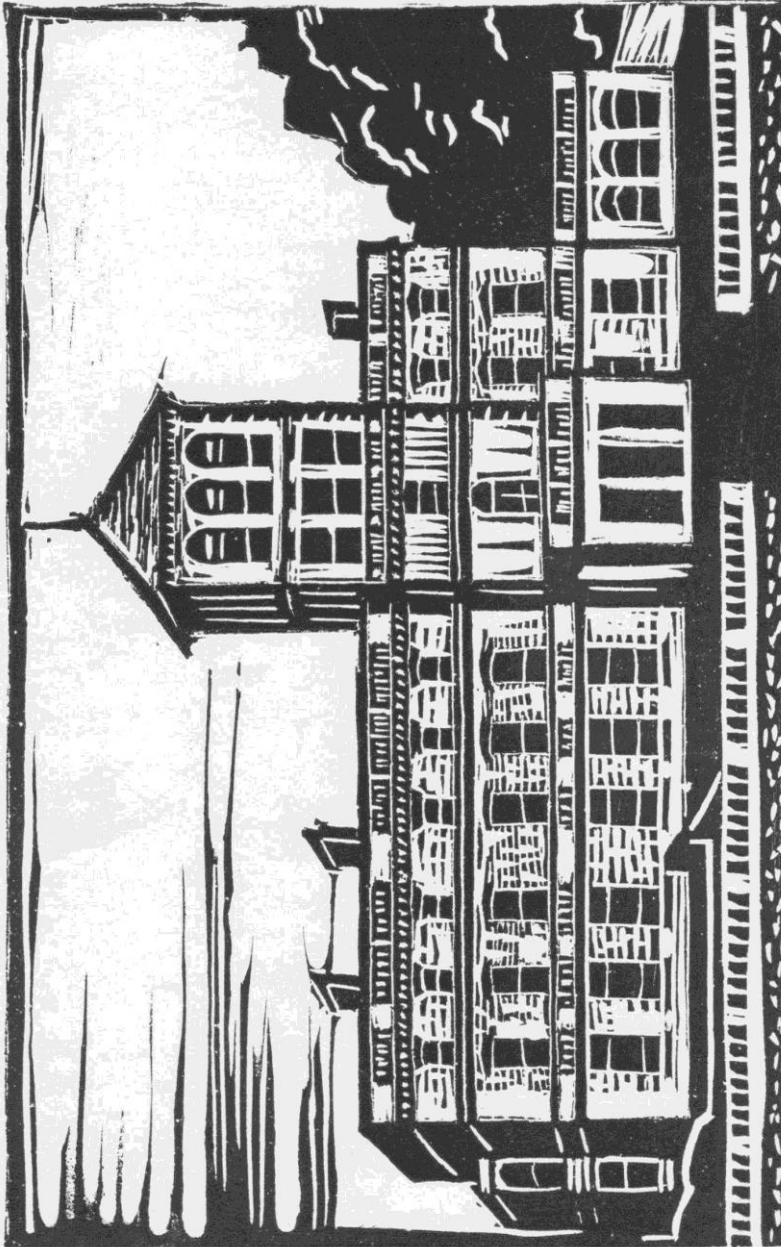
OCTOBER, 1939

SCHOOL NOTES

SUMMER TERM, 1939.

This is the first number of the Magazine to appear in war time. We do not propose to discuss war topics as such; that is definitely not our function. As a community our job is to carry on to the utmost of our capabilities, but it would be idle to suppose that our corporate life may not be affected in many ways by the changed times in which we are living. These naturally will come under our survey, and there is one important aspect that we believe will become increasingly important. The Magazine is not merely a record of our activities. **It can serve as a link between the College and its Old Boys. Many of these will be engaged in various forms of national service both with our fighting forces and in civilian life. It is our wish to keep in close contact with all such, and we hope that Old Rendcombians will help us to do so by letting us know of their various activities so that we may have records of the part they are playing in the larger issues and responsibilities to which they have been called.**

Term began on Thursday, 4th May. We have longer holidays at Easter than fall to the majority of schools, and it was quite obvious from our fitness on re-assembling that these had been enjoyed to the full. Summer Term is essentially the outdoor term and the warmer days and longer evenings make it easier for us to get into stride. There is a greater variety in our out of school pursuits, and while for many it is the examination term, it is also the season of preparation for Founder's Day with all that that involves. It is a curious fact that often while we are busiest we have a way of finding more time for a multitude, of things. At all events we have to make the most of our twenty- four hours, and the days and weeks run by with a speed that quickens rather than slackens until we find ourselves breaking up for the Summer Vacation with another school year behind us.



Our numbers have been growing steadily, and, as they do, increased pressure is put upon our living space. It was quite obvious that the pinch was being felt in Hall. Early in Term a re-arrangement was made in the position of the tables to the increased convenience of all. It involved the shifting of the high table from its place under the Founder's portrait to one parallel with the chimney piece and it broke up the long collegiate- looking lines on a refectory model. But we soon settled down and the advantage both to diners and servers was immediately apparent.

It has for some time been quite clear that with our growth as a School, especially in the numbers in the Sixth Form—further room for studies was becoming increasingly desirable. In addition the changing-room accommodation was being taxed to the utmost, and the Governing Body spent a great amount of time and labour in drawing up a scheme for a new block of twenty studies which would have in addition a changing room and a new class room in the projected extension. Sites had been reviewed and the final choice fixed in the enclosed lawn. The scheme had been adopted and the one question that remained was whether or not the financial outlay would be within our reach. Unfortunately within the past six months the cost of building has risen beyond all precedent and it was with the greatest reluctance that the project had to be postponed. Though the outlook now is doubly uncertain, we do not feel that the great amount of preliminary work has been wasted. The scheme remains, on paper, alas, for the, present, but the planning has been done and in happier times no doubt it will be translated into reality.

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On Sunday, 14th May, Dr. Alex Wood preached at the morning service. He is no stranger to Rendcomb and his vivid direct address has not been forgotten. There are many links between Rendcomb and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and we hope that in the future such contacts may be strengthened-

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On Saturday, 20th May, a party of boys went to the Empire Air Display at the South Cerney R. A. F. Flying School. The show this year gave ample evidence of the progress that has been made in our air defences.

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The annual Cricket Match with Miserden took place on Whit Monday, 29th May. An account of this will be found in the Games' Report.

On Wednesday, May 31st, the Headmaster and the senior prefects paid their customary visit to the Founder's grave and laid a wreath on behalf of the School- It is a simple and unobtrusive little ceremony. That is as it should be and we mention it not as a news item but because it is something we should not like to forget.

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The Science Expedition left for South Wales on Thursday, 1st June. For once they were favoured with really marvellous weather. Not a hitch occurred, save the fact that they went off minus their knives and forks. These however were dispatched post haste and reached them before they had become unduly ravenous. They returned in triumph bringing their spoils with them. Not that they have ever failed to do so, but frequently it has been the case that only their ardour remained undamped.

Commemoration Day fell on Friday, 2nd June. It was celebrated in the time-honoured way with expeditions and the frying of sausages over picnic fires and sound slumber at the end of all.

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The School Certificate Examination began on the 13th June. Only the fact that Founders' Day fell on a Saturday (when no papers are set) prevented the two from clashing. Such an eventuality does not bear thinking of. No other week in the year finds us with so much on our hands.

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A full account of Founder's Day appears elsewhere. It brought us a novelty as well as a disappointment. Owing to the fact that the Woodland theatre was in the hands of our landscape gardeners—much replanting had become essential—a change had to be made in the outdoor programme. A Canoe Regatta on the lake took the place of the customary play, a departure, that was welcomed by everybody. It proved an outstanding success.

The disappointment lay in the fact that at the last minute our visiting speaker, the Headmaster of Harrow School, found it impossible to be present. His colleague, Mr. F. W. T. James— well known to us all—stepped into the breach at the shortest notice, adding thereby to the debt of gratitude we already owe him.

The exhibitions at the Laboratory were on the same scale as ever. Science is truly the mother of invention. The manual work-shop and the art room contributed their quota. These shows are growing increasingly attractive, and we know they are much appreciated.

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On Sunday, 18th June, a party of boys represented the College at a Diocesan Youth Service held in Gloucester Cathedral. It was without hesitation a model of what such a service should be. Every detail had been carefully thought out. There was dignity as well as enthusiasm and those who had the privilege of being present are not likely to forget it.

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Fine weather favoured the Athletics Fixture with Bloxham which took place on our home grounds. The jumping pitches were in excellent condition and the running track laid out on the playing field on top provided an adequate, if somewhat undulating course. An account of the event appears in the Athletics Report.

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Old Boys' Day took place on Saturday, 8th July. A large number of Old Rendcombians turned up, and in spite of an appalling downpour a most heroic cricket match ensued. The contrast with log-fires blazing in the Hall and the History Room made the evening's sequel all the more enjoyable, and a record number sat down to supper. The following Old Boys were present: —I. E. Allen, J. R. Billany, E. O. Collett, D. Dakin, N. Dalton, J. R. Davies, N. W. Durham, P. J. Dyke, P. Field, P. W. Harding, W. F. Jones, J. Lambert, P. Lambert, J. E. Miller, H. E. Miller, O. G. Morel, J. H. A. Muirhead, D. A. Richards, J. F. Roper, H. H. Selby, N. Slade, W. F. Smallwood, C. G. V. Taylor, A. C. Wager, G. D. Waters, and R. C. V. Waters. We were also glad to see Mr. and Mrs. Hessing.

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A new social event was added to our calendar on Saturday, 15th July, when a large company of parents gathered to meet each other and to hear an informal talk from Mr. Lee-Browne. The idea had been mooted previously and taken up keenly. The success of this gathering—the first of its kind at Rendcomb—leaves little doubt that as circumstances permit, it will be followed by others of a similar nature. During the course of the afternoon, tea was served in the Library and parents had an opportunity of meeting the Staff.

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On Wednesday, 19th July, Mr. Lee-Browne gave a broadcast talk on "Boats" from the B. B. C. Midland Regional Station.

During the weekend of the 23rd July, a party of Gryphons went on a canoe expedition on the River Severn. Starting from Tewkesbury, they proceeded up stream, assisted by "Kiruna." Camp was pitched near Upton-on-Severn, and on the following day the canoes descended the river. In spite of the unfavourable weather-conditions "a good time" seems to have been "had by all."

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At the London School Certificate examination held this July, M. A. Bullen, E. J. Clissold, P. A. Cutts, L. H. Hyett, G. W. Ivens, J. R. Luton, E. J. Powell, J. H. Quick, C. E. H. Tuck, C. F. Bailey, P. S. Jackson, J. H. Neads, and H. S. Palmer passed the examination. Nine of these obtained matriculation exemption.

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In the Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examination held this Term, W. A. Wyon obtained distinctions in both Physics and Mathematics, and P. H. Tuft a distinction in Zoology. B. H. Harben and R. L. Short obtained Certificates, their respective main subjects being Chemistry and Physics, and Mathematics and Physics.

M. F. Lane passed the Intermediate Examination for the B. Sc. Engineering of London University.

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The following boys left College at the end of the term: — E. R. S. Gillham, R. L. Short, M. F. Lane, R. F. Boyland, E. J. Clissold, J. R. Luton, A. R. Tenty, C. F. Bailey, F. R. Dobbs and P. A. Betts. To them we extend our Valette.

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Mr. C. Mack and Miss Salter left us to take up other work. We wish them every success.

OLD BOYS NOTES

We, regret to announce the death of Percy W. Harding which occurred in the Gloucester Infirmary on the 23rd July, 1939, after a week's illness with pneumonia. He was here, last Old Boys' Day and his sudden death will be a deep loss to his many friends.

W. Noel Durham was married on June 8th, 1939, to Miss Sylvia Wild, at St. James' Church, North Wraxall, Wilts.

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Another Rendcomb wedding took place at Keighley Parish Church on July 26th, 1939, when Dick Field was married to Miss Ethel Mary Pickering Clapham, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Albern Clapham, of Norwood House, Keighley, Yorkshire.

Dick Field is art master at Hertford Boys' Grammar School, and for several years has been exhibiting at the Royal Academy, his picture this year being a portrait in oils of his bride.

For the past year the bride has been art mistress at Wheelwright Grammar School for Girls, Dewsbury. She is a former member of the Rockfield Players, Keighley, and played the role of St. Joan in Shaw's play in 1934.

The best man was Jack Allen, and the groomsman Peter Field.

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Douglas Dakin's book "Turgot and the Ancien Regime in France" was published by Methuen in May, and he has presented a copy to the Library.

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Francis Meiklejohn is 2nd Engineer on one of Tate and Lyle's vessels.

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The following Old Boys were present on Founder's Day: — J. R. Billany, G. D. Buck, E. O. Collett, R. O. J. Cooper, D. Dakin, J. A. Davis, R. G. Daubeny, P. Field, P. R. Highley, W. J. Jones, J. C. Maslin, H. E. Miller, D. A. Richards, M. C. B. Russell, H. H. Selby, N. Slade, C. Sidgwick and J. R. Wheeler.

HONOURS

O. G. Morel obtained a 1st Class in the City and Guilds of London Handicraft Examination.

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B. H. Peacock has been awarded the Fripp Prize for the best papers done in the second examination for the degree of B. Sc. at Bristol University.

THE GENERAL MEETING

OFFICERS—WINTER TERM, 1939.

Chairman: E. R. Morris.

Council: W. A. Wyon, P. H. Tuft, D. F. Gallop, E. R. Morris,
H. W. T. Bates, J. F. Spencer, A. S. C. Smith.

Meeting Selection Committee: W. A. Wyon, P. H. Tuft,
D. F. Gallop, E. R. Morris, J. F. Spencer.

House Committee: B. H. Harben, B. J. Lumby, P. Binks, D. A. C. Smith,
L. H. B. Hatherell.

Games Committee: E. R. Morris, W. A. Wyon, H. W. T. Bates.

Games Treasurer: L. H. Hyett.

Games Secretary: J. G. Sterry.

Groundsman: P. A. Herring.

Senior Shopman: P. G. Forrest.

Shopmen: S. J. Curry A. R. Margetts.

Banker: J. Owen.

Breakages Man: J. G. Sterry.

Secretary: C. E. H. Tuck.

Auditors: F. H. Dutton, A. W. Morris.

Apprentice Auditor: J. L. Russell.

Finance Committee: G. W. Ivens, D. G. Taylor, P. B. Lane.

Entertainments Committee: P. A. Cutts, S. J. Curry,
C. D. M. Barnett, C. Beck, R. A. S. Primrose.

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

Paperman: M. C. Thompson.

Meeting Almoner: A. R. Margetts.

Athletics Committee: H. W. T. Bates, S. A. Trayhurn, L. H. Hyett.

Record Committee: H. W. T. Bates, J. F. Spencer, B. H. Harben.

Amplifier Committee: H. W. T. Bates, J. F. Spencer, B. H. Harben,
P. A. Cutts, F. H. Dutton.

Magazine Committee: J. R. Harmer, C. D. M. Barnett,
D. Montgomery.

Drying Room Committee: M. A. Bullen, S. A. Trayhurn,
J. L. Russell.

Games Wardens: —

Football: C. E. H. Tuck, A. R. Margetts.

Hockey: D. Montgomery.

Cricket: S. J. Curry.

Tennis: P. A. Herring.

Indoor: C. Beck, R. A. S. Primrose.

Tennis Groundsman: J. G. Sterry, S. A. Trayhurn.

Lecture Committee: W. A. Wyon, P. H. Tuft, E. R. Morris.

B. H. Harben, J. R. Harmer.

Engagements Man: F. H. Dutton.

THE CANOE REGATTA

The Canoe Regatta was without question a happy idea. The trees in summer leaf, the steep banks, the bosky island, and the brimming water all seen in an afternoon's sunshine made an ideal setting for the event.

The spectators were gathered on the slope behind the landing-stage, and along the shore towards the Cheltenham drive. At the signal for starting the first canoe appeared from behind the island and came paddling down towards us leading the entire flotilla which filed past and then executed a figure of eight. The crews, stripped to the waist, were sunburnt. They looked fine as they swung past with flashing paddles, timing their manoeuvres with admirable precision and gliding to rest in massed formation alongside the landing place. Then followed a rotation in close phalanx, like a spectacle on a revolving stage, the whole rank pivoting round in close alignment. After this they broke up into a V formation, and executed various movements in answer to the words of command, changing their places in two different methods, paddling from the bow, and standing up in their canoes. After this they took their stations for a display of Aquabatics—a good term for this item.

These consisted of feats of acrobatic balancing—one boy skipped with a rope on the bow of his canoe, others stood on their heads and performed various stunts which tested to the utmost their powers of maintaining an audacious equilibrium. Incidentally it demonstrated the amazing stability of their cockleshell craft when skilfully handled. Actually it looked almost perilous—a single error of judgment and they would have capsized—but they never did, and while it lasted the spectators were held quite spellbound. This was perhaps the most spectacular display, though in fact it required less drilling than the movements in the synchronised events.

Chariot paddling followed, and then a changing of crews from one canoe to another. Afterwards the racing proper began. This, though less spectacular, afforded some, exciting finishes, and the interest was kept up until the last flanking assembly was formed and the united crews downed paddles.

The whole, programme had been well timed. There was variety and constant movement, grouping and then breaking-up and re-assembling. It occupied the right length of time. A little more and it might have been too long, and might have, seemed repetitive. As it was, the spectators had plenty to keep their attention engaged and not enough to cause their interest to flag.

Only those concerned can appreciate how much rehearsing had to go to make such a finished result. As it was, it seemed almost effortless. It had the spontaneity of happy improvisation; nothing was stiff or rigid.

Writing as a mere spectator one can say that judging from one's own reactions and from the general comment, the regatta may be written down as a most successful venture, and one that could with both profit and pleasure be repeated another time. The crews were as follows: M. A. C. Levett, B. J. Lumby; F. R. Dobbs, R. F. Boyland, C. F. Bailey, J. P. Amsden, H. Hill, C. C. Richardson, L. H. B. Hatherell, C. D. M. Barnett, L. H. Hyett, P. A. Herring, A. W. Morris, N. P. Morris, P. D. B. Levett, E. B. Smith, E. R. S. Gillham, J. J. North, J. Clifford, A. R. Tenty, J. H. Quick, P. A. Cutts, P. H. Tuft, J. Owen, M. J. Bedwell, R. A. S. Primrose, J. A. Cunnison, M. Boyce, G. W. Ivens, M. C. Thompson, H. W. T. Bates, J. M. Murry, P. F. Gurdon, F. T. Luffman, J. W. H. Neads, and J. R. Harmer.

Towards the end of Term the Gaumont British news film people visited us and filmed a repeat performance of the Regatta. Quite a number of us saw it in the Gaumont British News during the holidays, and reports of it came in from all over the British Isles and also from Paris.

PUPPETS

TROPIC ADVENTURE

The play was theatrical—dramatic, but slightly burlesqued— which gave some help to the rather inexperienced players: who still have difficulty with manipulation.

The scenery was simple but effective. One of the best scenes was that depicting the unfortunate air pilot on his sinking machine in the middle of the sea.

The heroine was 'lovely', and successfully accomplished her now well known trick of unmasking at the critical point in the action. There were also the customary fearsome battery of villains, the fearsomest of which saying that he "could take it", promptly fell dead, thereby leaving the stage clear for romance—on which note the play wound up.

There was a short curtain raiser acted by some of the older puppeteers, and here the better manipulation was evident. The actual puppet making is coming on steadily, and now there are two sets, a 15-inch set and a 20-inch set, and also some 10-inch puppets which do not actually work in the plays-

The cast of the play was as follows: —

Rodriguez Storm	R. E. Hayward.
Zamorro	R. A. S. Primrose.
Tama	I. M. Bryce.
Lopez	J. R. C. Baillie.
Jacinto	J. F. Alder.

NEWS BULLETIN

"You take my word it won't last long."

"Oh," I said, I laid aside my paper, glancing for a moment out of the carriage window.

"Oh no, it won't last long," he repeated.

"Ah", I said.

"You see", he volunteered, "internal pressure'll get him."

"I expect so," I said.

"Lor yes, internal pressure'll get him," he asserted again.

I made a move, as if to take up my paper, but he thwarted me—

"You take my word," he went on earnestly and quickly, "there's trouble a-brewing up. He'll go a bit too far one of these fine days. I feel it somehow," he added darkly. He looked across at me.

"No doubt", I said, feeling that some reply was expected of me. "You're right, sir, there's no doubt at all; no," he concluded, "there's no doubt alright."

"None," I said, thinking the subject closed.

He sank into deep thought, I sighed and picked up my paper, the rustle however must have brought him out of his reverie for he jerked forward from his seat and began with renewed vigour.

"Mind you he's an artful one," he warned me anxiously, "Oh yes he's very artful one."

The man became agitated.
“Perhaps,” I suggested, with a view to putting his mind at rest, “internal pressure will prove too strong for him?”

The man’s face, cleared. Gravely concealing his relief he announced: —

“You’re right, sir, there can be no doubt, none so ever, that internal pressure will get him eventually. And I think” he added wisely, “I think that we can rest assured that a fall off the top of his pedestal will occur in the not so distant future.”

“Quite right,” I agreed gravely.

He yawned, “I think so” he said, “I think so.” His mind at ease the man leant back into his corner; after a moments cautious observation I learnt that he was asleep—exhausted by his labours. Quietly, with a feeling of guilt, I opened my paper, and folding it at the leader page settled down to read. The train sped on.

J. R. H.
Summer, 1939.

FOUNDERS DAY

(With acknowledgments to the Wilts. & Glos. Standard)

Founder’s Day was observed on Saturday, 17th June.

It had been arranged for Mr. P. C. Vellacott, Headmaster of Harrow School, to give the address, but he was unable to be present owing to illness. As a result, the address was given by Mr. Frank James, Housemaster of Harrow, and a member of the Governing Body at Rendcomb.

Canon H. Sewell, chairman of the Governing Body, presided at the assembly held as usual in the gymnasium.

He was supported on the platform by Mrs. Noel Wills, Sir J. Russell Kerr, Mr. F. James Lord Dulverton, and members of the College Staff.

Before giving his annual report, the Headmaster said it was indeed a pleasure to welcome so fine a gathering to the College. So far as he knew, there were more people present that day than there had ever been before in the history of the school. He appreciated their interest in the place.

In his report, Mr. Lee Browne said: Under the care of Dr. Gladstone and Miss Lister the health of the school has been good. We had a bout of influenza last term, but without a single serious case. Health leads me naturally to speak of our games and academic work. I do not wish either to appear to blow our

own trumpet or to make it seem that we are a “games school.” which we are not. but the facts are that during the last four years we have played a total of 78 matches of all kinds, of which we have won or drawn 49, which is practically 63 per cent. During 1938 we played 23 matches of all kinds, of which we only lost five. This does not include our club side in hockey, which has only been beaten once since its inception. The standard of cricket has gone steadily ahead under Mr. James, and is improving again this term since the laying down by him and a group of boys of the concrete pitches on the lawn outside this room. In passing I may perhaps mention the bridge into the park over which you will go to the lake later this afternoon, which was also carried out by a voluntary party of boys. The standard of field athletics this year has not perhaps been as high as on some former occasions. In spite of that fact E. R. S. Gillham went to the Public Schools Athletic Sports at the White City and obtained second place in the javelin in a year when the record was beaten by a wide margin, fourth place in the steeplechase, and standard performances in both putting the shot and throwing the discus. I am grateful to those members of the staff who give up so much of their time in coaching games and to carrying out the Physical Training programme of the school.

Since we last met the academic work of the school has gone on steadily. As far as outward and visible signs are concerned I imagine you will not grumble at the list of examination results which you find upon your programme. But at least as important as these is the fact that the various departments of school work have been in a healthy condition. The reorganisation of the Library is complete and its 3,000 volumes are being used increasingly each year.

In the short space of twelve months under the keen supervision of Mr. Morel the workshop has regained its proper place in the life of the school, and you will have an opportunity later on of seeing the sort of work which is being done there.

In the laboratories Mr. Fell and Mr. Neal continue to be most valuable members of the community, scientists who can also use their hands. You will see more apparatus which has been made in the Laboratory workshop, and you will see photographs which have been taken in connection with bird watching and other Natural History activities. The scope of the annual Science Expedition to the Gower Peninsula has been widened and members of the VIth Form are now able to carry out some of the ecological work which is necessary for Higher School Certificate and Scholarship purposes. With the middle and lower Forms, Mr. Wright has been doing some work on the Direct Method of teaching French—already we believe with beneficial results. Mr. James has continued his

regular talks on current affairs and I am sure you will agree with me that these are a valuable contribution to the life of the place. In the VIth Form we have continued our policy of trying to give the Humanist an insight into the general principles of Science, while at the same time giving the Scientists an opportunity of contact with Music, Literature, and Pictures. Before I finally leave the question of school work you may be interested to know that in September next 25 per cent, of the school will be in the VIth Form.

Out-of-school activities of every kind continue to flourish. The fact that I have not mentioned all the members of my staff by name is in no way a reflection on their work. Some of them have less spectacular jobs to do and they do them extraordinarily well. One of the things that I look forward to with the greatest pleasure each year is the taking of this opportunity of acknowledging my debt to them, in a school which though small in numbers takes considerable toll of their energy and spare time.

There are three or four unconnected matters which may be of interest to you. The College has had a variety of gifts during the year—from Governors, parents, friends of the school, and Old Boys. I would like to acknowledge our appreciation of these.

Those of you who are parents have probably heard about and approved a change which we have made in our daily routine and which we feel has produced a better balanced day. I refer to the alteration in the time of meals by which the boys have a light tea in the middle of the afternoon, and then get their preparation over before supper at 7:15. This scheme has worked well, and we propose to continue it.

I am glad to report that the position about the number of boys in the school is in a very satisfactory state, and that all known vacancies have already been covered by applications for entry for some considerable time ahead.

The problem of co-operation between parents and school is always more difficult in a Boarding School than it is elsewhere. Particularly in a school of this sort it is important. The idea of increased co-operation was warmly received by a large group of parents at Christmas and a meeting was tentatively arranged for last term. Unfortunately this had to be cancelled, but the idea is by no means dead and we propose to have a parents' meeting shortly.

To get back to more routine affairs, I have to report only three senior boys are leaving at the end of this term. M. F. Lane, who is a prefect and an excellent all-round athlete, hopes to join the British Thomson-Houston Company's training scheme shortly after leaving school. R. L. Short, who is a prefect,

captain of cricket, in both the other teams, and one of our oldest actors, is going to the University in October to read Physics and Mathematics. E. R. S. Gillham leaves as senior prefect, and with a list of athletic distinctions and captaincies with which I will not embarrass him. He has been senior stage hand and has been acting nearly as long as I can remember. He has recently completed some excellent shop-fittings for the College Shop, and lastly he has the distinction of having taken a Higher School Certificate in Science last year and of having been accepted by the University to read Modern Languages in October. Both he and Short have been awarded County Higher Exhibitions.

There are a number of points of interest about Old Boys. J. C. Maslin's Board of Education Studentship includes a £200 grant which will enable him to study for a year. It follows on a recent success when he obtained a 1st Class in the City and Guilds of London cabinet making examination. D. C. Vaughan, a former British Empire Scholar, obtained a 1st Class Engineering Diploma from Loughborough College. W. Y. Willetts, an Open Scholar at Bristol University, who is reading Biology, also writes plays, and this year his play "Hedge about them" was awarded first prize in the University Drama contest. He produced the play himself. During the last long vacation he carried out a remarkable journey across Europe to the Bosphorus, returning home on a tramp steamer. He broadcast an account of this some months back. I should perhaps add that the reports on his biological work are unexceptionable! M. H. C. Martin has been appointed to the post of senior French Master at Harrison College, Barbados, while F. H. Jones has been appointed to the post of senior English Master at Camberley Secondary School. Sixteen Old Boys are at the present moment at Universities or their equivalent. In itself this is a small number but represents a percentage in relation to the size of the school with which we may be satisfied.

May I tell Canon Sewell from us all what a great pleasure it is to have him with us again—and may I express my own appreciation to the Governing Bodies and their Secretaries for the many ways in which their work makes the running of the College more easy and progress more sure. We are indeed happy in this direction.

Before I complete my report I would like to say a word about this afternoon's canoe regatta. This originally arose because the theatre is out of action for this summer and possibly for next. The stage itself is being resown with grass and a hedge has been planted along the back and sides of it in order to fill up the places where the branches of the screening trees have died away. I believe we have done a play,

without an interval, for 17 years, and I am inclined to think that a rest from it will be all to the good. Hence the Canoe Regatta. We do not pretend that it is in the ordinary sense of the word a finished performance, because it is not. But the building of canoes here and their use has been a great joy to a large, number of boys. Something like thirty boats of one sort or another have been built in the workshop during the past 3½ years. Last year I told you that we were at work on a sailing canoe. Five of these have been completed and as soon as they have been rigged we hope to have sailing races on an open stretch of water which is within easy reach of Rendcomb. The object of the Regatta this afternoon, in addition to giving you the opportunity of seeing the boats, is to demonstrate their stability, manoeuvrability, and general safety.

The Chairman said that on Founder's Day he always felt it was their bounden duty to see how they as governors, masters and boys had used that valuable gift which Noel Wills in his great vision bequeathed to them.

"We have to ask ourselves continually, 'Are we keeping that gift bright?'" added Canon Sewell. "It is the duty of every one of us never to forget what Noel Wills did for Gloucestershire boys and others."

Mr. Frank James prefaced his address by conveying to the assembly the great regret of Mr. P. C. Vellacott at being unable to be present.

"This Founder's Day was a thing to which we had been looking forward with great pleasure," added Mr. James, "and it is a very real disappointment to him not to be able to be present. No less is it a disappointment to me, because I am convinced that all of you would have been charmed by his personality and deeply interested in what he would have said to you.

"Perhaps I might be forgiven as a schoolmaster for saying something about education," he went on. "To my mind many of us to-day do not give enough thought to the real principles of education. Up and down the country one can see hundreds of schools with admirable playing fields, with admirable headmasters, and with buildings well equipped in every way. And yet I believe most of you here to-day will feel that Rendcomb is in some way different from those schools. I believe the secret of it lies in the vision which sees the true purpose of education

"I think you will agree that the purpose is not so much the collection of knowledge or facts. Almost anybody can collect facts if they are sufficiently industrious. Neither is the object to attain worldly success, though that is very pleasant if it comes.

“I do feel myself that the true purpose of education should be something very much deeper than that, and the school without ideals cannot hope to go far in fulfilling the true purpose of education.

“Let us consider for a moment what our ideals should be. I think we may put them in a nut-shell by saying that our first thought should be the service both of our fellow men and of our country in one form or another.

“I suppose no man would criticise the great saying ‘Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend.’ That of course is the supreme sacrifice, but one must not forget to carry that principle into our everyday lives.

“Now a school like this where I know you have the highest ideals cannot come into being just by chance, and as Canon Sewell has pointed out, we should never forget the vision of Noel Wills in founding this School.

Turning to “a quite different point, agriculture—one which is very near to my heart,” Mr. James said it might seem a far cry from education to agriculture, but in some ways the schoolmaster and the farmer were not very different men. Superficially they might be, but upon investigation a similarity would be found.

The schoolmaster’s object was to bring out all that was best in the boys and girls in his charge. He could not create anything, but he could improve upon the material, and he could try to eradicate anything that was bad.

The farmer, too, could not make something out of nothing. He could sow his seed, tend it and look after it. He could reap his crops and he could try and eradicate weeds.

Agriculture had attained prominence as a topic both in Parliament and all over the country. It was of great importance in peace time, but more especially if we should, by any grave misfortune, be plunged into a war.

The drift from the land to the towns could be a most dangerous thing.

“Many of you,” he said, “come from country homes. When you leave Rendcomb I would ask some of you to give a thought to the possibility of going back to the land, back to agriculture in some form or another. I know the difficulties of this course. I am aware of many of the difficulties since I have had the good fortune to possess a small part of this lovely country of yours, but I ask you, both parents and boys, not to put out of your heads altogether the idea of agriculture in some form as a useful and honourable career.”

A vote of thanks was heartily accorded Mr. James on the proposition of Sir Russell Kerr, seconded by Lord Dulverton.

The assembly broke up with cheers for Mrs. Noel Wills, Canon Sewell and the Governing Body.

Tea was served in the College, and afterwards many visitors watched the Canoe Regatta.

TRANSITION

Death like an angry serpent
Coils itself round the hearts of nations;
The flags of happiness and hope
That only yesterday flew bright and gay,
Enveloped in the gentle breeze of peace
Are folded away and put into the lockers
Of tomorrow. The lust for power
That like a lion seeking its midnight prey
Creeps on with relentless tread
To fill a belly which is never filled,
Has entered the soul of man,
And man alone must combat it
The leaders are climbing the staircase of authority;
The lives of lesser men are caught in the claws of command.
Gone is that premature feeling
Of the calm security of life.
The newspaper takes a new and terrible aspect,
A mass-produced chronicle of destruction that forces its way
Through the letter-box of every community,
(Like the camel passing through the needle's eye.)
It is useless to destroy and throw it away:
To-morrow's news is more grim than yesterday's.
The link between the faulty men of the past,
And the enlightened men of the future,
Has become inevitably the unfortunate men of the present.

E. R. M.

CRICKET, 1939.

The summer of 1939 was one of the wettest of recent years and as cricket is a game which depends on the weather more than most, the season was interrupted quite a deal. Despite this fact however, we may say that it was a successful season. When the rain kept off, our practice was helped by the completion of the concrete pitches at the end of the Easter Term, and the renovation of the nets. If examinations prevented many seniors from practising regularly, the junior members of the school took every opportunity of improving their play. The pitches provided a rather faster surface than we have been used to, but every batsman could rest assured that the dangerous irregularities of the Enclosed Lawn were for ever removed. As has been said, the keenness of the juniors was once again a characteristic of the term, and the old question—What becomes of these juniors when they grow older? may now be given a satisfactory answer—in many cases they become enthusiastic members of the 1st XI. Their match record was a particularly successful one as can be seen from their results.

There were few changes in this year's 1st XI, and last year's players formed a large majority. Of the matches played, three were won, four lost, and one drawn, and although the start was an unsteady one, a strong team was built up, and results improved. As far as our batting was concerned several good scores were recorded, and though few members batted consistently well, much ability was evident.

Short and Lane were again our opening bowlers and in three matches bowled unchanged. Throughout the season it was taken too much for granted that our bowling strength was not very great and consequently too few members were given a chance. However, E. R. Morris and Trayhurn were consistently useful. Gallop having begun the season as a prospective change-bowler, later resumed his position as wicket keeper where he proved himself more successful. It was unfortunate that we began the season with four successive defeats. Three of these were by village teams and we must remember that if we continue to play them, it is necessary to realise, that they play a different game and that we are more likely to gain success against school teams.

Once again we are grateful to Mr. James. Mr. Neal and Mr. Wright for their assistance in coaching.

RESULTS

Saturday, May 13th—1st XI. v. Swindon College, at Swindon.

Rendcomb 35. Swindon 67.

Our bowlers gained early successes and it seemed possible that Swindon would be dismissed for a small total, but faulty fielding and mere stolid batting on the part of our opponents brought their score to 67. The Swindon pitch has always proved somewhat of a handicap to our batsmen and this occasion was no exception. Its unaccustomed speed and the fact that the match had been preceded by very little practice proved our undoing. Wickets fell with alarming regularity from the start and we were all out for 35.

Gallop 11. Short 5—28.

Lane 5—19.

Monday, May 29th—1st XI. v. Miserden, at Miserden.

Rendcomb 146. Miserden 167—9.

We went in first and although the opening pair were both dismissed without scoring, some hard hitting and many lucky snicks helped us to consolidate our position. There were several good stands and runs came rapidly until the last wicket fell at 146. We went out to field with confidence and hopes of a victory were raised by early Miserden failures. A stand of 79 for the 6th wicket changed the aspect of the game and our score was soon passed.

Jackson 32. Lane 31. Luton 21. Short 4—64. Trayhurn 3—27.

Saturday, June 3rd—1st XI. v. Miserden at Rendcomb.

Rendcomb 99. Miserden 149.

In this return match we were handicapped by the absence of several members of the team on the Science Expedition, and we were even more unlucky than in the previous encounter. We were all out for 99. Once again after a shaky start Miserden pulled the game round, and subjected our seven bowlers to treatment which, fortunately, they do not often experience, and our score was passed with four wickets to fall.

Lane 25. E. R- Morris 13. Short 4—29. Lane 2—43. Gillham 1—3

Wednesday, June 7th—1st XI v. North Cerney at Rendcomb.

Rendcomb 80. North Cerney 90—7.

Much of our misfortune in matches with North Cerney has been attributed to the fact that they were played in the evening, and having arranged last year's match on a Saturday, with disastrous effect we were forced once again to revert to an evening. Batting in the light of the evening, the early batsmen scored some success and although we succeeded in reaching 80, the havoc usually wrought by North Cerney

bowlers was there. The last eight batsmen made only eleven runs between them. Our opponents went out to bat as night was falling, but this fact seemed to detract from our fielding rather than their batting. The number of catches dropped was phenomenal and might have changed the result.

Short 49. Lane 2—43. Short 4—28.

Saturday, June 10th. —“A” XI v. North Cerney 2nd XI,
at Rendcomb.

Rendcomb 149. North Cerney 62.

From the first our batsmen found little opposition and runs were scored rapidly. Short and E. R. Morris were responsible for the greater part of our score. In a stand of 62 both batsmen hit freely though much of their style was sacrificed in so doing. It was a pity that after such a fine feat our opponents were dismissed so quickly thus robbing the game of most of its interest.

E. R. Morris 55 not out. Short 45. E. B. Smith 6—21.

E. R. Morris 3—11.

Saturday, July 1st. —1st XI. v. Swindon College at Rendcomb.

Rendcomb 96—4. Swindon 48.

Swindon batted first and wickets fell steadily. Short and Lane were able to bring the innings to a rapid conclusion although frequent maiden overs indicated that opposition might become stronger. The batting showed confidence from the start and Lane who played some fine innings on other occasions helped to make victory secure. We were able to declare at 96 for 4.

Lane 28 not out. Short 18. Short 7—18. Lane. 3—21.

Saturday, July 8th—1st XI. v. Old Rendcombians at Rendcomb.

Rendcomb 18—7. Old Rendcombians 66—6.

For the past two years we have had two very enjoyable and equal cricket matches with the Old Boys, but on this occasion all chances of a good game were ruined by the weather. Rain fell steadily especially during the school innings and though it provided some amusement the game was, as far as cricket was concerned, a farce.

Thursday, July 13th. —1st XI. v. Dean Close 2nd XI at Cheltenham

Rendcomb 93. Dean Close 2nd XI. 89.

We batted first and our opening pair played a cautious and unhurried game so that 21 runs were scored for the loss of the first wicket. Later, batsmen however ridiculed the example set them and treated the bowling with disastrous contempt. Five wickets fell for 17 runs and then Wyon, with a bold and successful innings saved the side from a complete collapse. Our opponents' innings proceeded slowly and when the seventh wicket fell for 42 it seemed that victory was assured. More determined batting brought them within five runs of victory when the, last wicket fell. This match, which was interesting right up to the end was played at Dean Close in very fine weather and on a splendid wicket and may be regarded as our most enjoyable one.

Wyon 41. Sterry 18. Short 6—43. Lane 3—42.

Saturday, July 22nd. —1st XI v. Burford Grammar School
at Rendcomb.

Rendcomb 58—9. Burford 39.

This match had been cancelled earlier in the season on account of rain, and we were lucky to be able to rearrange it on this date. Unfortunately the weather conditions were again not very good and on the previous day we had experienced a very heavy thunderstorm. The pitch was still very wet and careful batting was required if runs were to be scored. Our opponents, when batting first tried to score quickly but were soon dismissed for a small total. By this time the wicket was badly cut up and our innings was a cautious one throughout, but we were able to pass the Burford score with five wickets in hand.

Lane 14 not out. Gallop 14. Short 6—18. Lane 4—21.

JUNIOR MATCHES

Tuesday, May 30th. —Under 15 XI. v. Dean Close under 15 XI
at Cheltenham.

Rendcomb	144	Sterry not out 59
		Curry 34
Dean Close	48	Palmer 4—12
		Trayhurn 3—19
		Owen 3—6

Tuesday, June 6th. —Under 16, XI. v. Kingham Hill at Kingham.

Rendcomb	61	Luton 17
		Jackson 14
Kingham Hill	41	Trayhurn 5—7
		Luton 2—16

Tuesday, June 27th. —Under 15 XI v. Dean Close under 15 XI
at Rendcomb.

Rendcomb	79	Palmer 18 Owen not out 12
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Dean Close,	54	Palmer 6—25 Trayhurn 2—19
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Saturday, July 1st. —Junior XI. v. Oakley Hall at Cirencester.

Rendcomb	121—8	D. A. C. Smith 29 Beck 22
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Oakley Hall	116	Montgomery 4—13 D. A. C. Smith 5—29
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ATHLETICS MATCH

RENDCOMB v. BLOXHAM

Tuesday, July 4th, at Rendcomb.

Team: —

Captain: E. R. S. Gillham.

Long Jump: —E. R. S. Gillham, D. F. Gallop.

High Jump: —E. R. S. Gillham, D. F. Gallop.

Javelin: —E. R. S. Gillham, R. L. Short.

100 Yards: —D. F. Gallop, R. L. Short.

Discus: —E. R. S. Gillham, D. F. Gallop.

440 Yards: —E. R. Morris, R. L. Short.

Weight: —E. R. S. Gillham, J. F. Spencer.

Mile B. H. Harben, H. W. T. Bates.

220 Yards: —E. R. S. Gillham, J. Neads, R. L. Short, J. R. Harmer
(Relay)

Bloxham won with an aggregate score of 54 points to Rendcomb's 39.

Some events were affected by the weather. It rained most of the previous day and there were some showers on the Tuesday morning. A westerly breeze affected both running and field events.

The match started on the Athletics pitch with the Long Jump, which was won by Bloxham with 19 feet 6 inches. We had to be satisfied with 3rd and 4th places. This was a disappointment as both Gillham and Gallop had done excellent jumping earlier in the season. Gillham won the second event, High Jump with a height of 5 feet 5½ inches. This excellent jump, in scissors style broke the school record. Gallop was third with 5 feet 24 inches, which is also better than the previous school record.

The first event on top was the Javelin. This was also won by Gillham. Once again he broke the school record with a throw of 180 feet 2 inches. This throw also unofficially breaks the existing Public Schools record. Bloxham obtained 3rd and 4th places.

The first running event was the 100 yards. Gallop and Short started well but lacked the speed to win. Bloxham got 1st and 2nd places with a winner's time of 10.7 seconds. This time may be considered to be very good on the existing track.

The Discus was won by Gillham with a distance of 117 feet, 6 inches. Bloxham took 2nd and 3rd places.

The 440 yards was won by Bloxham, our men being third and fourth. The winner's time was 57. 2 seconds. This time, like that of the 100 yards, was good considering the track.

We expected to win the weight, but Gillham was second with 39 feet, 2½ inches behind the winner.

The mile was won by Bates after an exciting race with a close finish. The time was 5 minutes, 13.3 seconds.

In the 220 x 4 relay, we were leading for the majority of the way, but were beaten to the tape. We, note that far more baton-passing practice is necessary. Bloxham won in 1 minute, 43.3 seconds.

This match although not altogether successful from our point of view, has taught us the need for practice. Some of us were inclined to leave training to within a fortnight of the match and then overdo it. It was a lack of sufficient training which caused "technical slips," which in turn caused us to lose the match. This need for training applies equally to first and second strings and the latter, must take the match just as seriously, for every point scored is of value.

The pitches for the field events were in very good condition on the day of the match but the grass "on top" is too long for running and also the ground is too uneven. It is to be hoped that one day we will have a running track. A great deal of work is being put into the improvement of the Athletics pitches now and we hope that this will meet with support.

The responsibility of officiating the match was borne by Messrs. Richards, Morel and Mack, ably assisted by Wyon, Fischer, Tuft, Smith, A., Cutts and Bullen. Our thanks are due to them and all others who helped.