

Rendcomb College Magazine.

JANUARY, 1927.

Vol. 1. No. 6.

SCHOOL NOTES.

The entertainment at the end of last term was more informal than usual, and only parents of present members of the College and Old Boys attended.

Last term we began a series of "Friday afternoon talks." They take place in the Big School at 5 p. m., and are attended by Forms 6, 5, 4 and 3. General cultural subjects are chosen, and those already dealt with range from Anatomy to Nationalisation. Members of the staff take turns to lecture, and occasionally a visitor to the College speaks. Mr. K. T. Gemmell spoke last term on the differences between the French and English nations.

Biology is a new school subject, and will probably be included in future in our curriculum for the London General Schools Examination.

Country Dancing was continued last term. Unfortunately, Miss de la Hey is no longer able to teach us. We are grateful to Mr. Richings for the able way in which he has conducted the classes, and to C. W. Clarke for his kindness in playing.

Ballroom dancing classes have been held on Saturday nights, and Miss Godfrey has come from Cheltenham to take them.

We are especially grateful to Mrs.

Langdon-Davies for superintending the choir practices, and playing in Church once a month. Occasionally the choir sing an anthem at the morning service, and their singing has noticeably improved.

We are most grateful to Mr. Wills for his gift of the comfortable furniture in Saul's Hall, and the beautiful Normandy press that now stands at the head of the stairs.

Under Mr. Ferguson's supervision a broad gravel path was made last term, leading from the churchyard to the main drive. Members of Form III. made it entirely on their own initiative.

Last term W. J. Soles made a table which Mr. and Mrs. Simpson bought in aid of the Pavilion Fund and presented to the Church as a hymn-book table.

EARLY BIOLOGICAL EFFORTS.

Q. —Where do frogs go in winter, and why?

A. —They bury themselves in the mud at the bottom of the pond so that they shall not be disturbed laying their eggs.

Q. —Why do weasels and rabbits not live in the same burrow?

A. —Because if they did their young would get mixed up.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Mrs. Simpson, we much regret to say, broke down in health towards the end of last term, and has been absent from the College, taking a long rest, since December 8th. We miss her tremendously. We offer all our best wishes and sympathies to Mrs. Simpson in her illness, and to the Headmaster in his anxiety.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to W. S. Morgan upon winning an open scholarship of £80 at Queen's College, Cambridge.

Mr. Inward has gone to Newport Grammar School as Mathematics Master.

Mr. Ferguson and Miss Brown were married at Lewes on January 4th. We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Ferguson to Rendcomb.

D. Dakin has won a £60 open History Scholarship at Peter House, Cambridge. We offer him our most hearty congratulations.

R. G. Daubeny writes from the station of Hazaribagh, in the province of Bihar, India.

W. E. Bardrick is in the drawing office of the Newfoundland Power and Paper Company, Corner Brook.

W. J. Soles has left to take up work with Messrs. Russell at Broadway.

D. Cooper has returned to his home in London from the Far East owing to ill-health.

Addresses of former members of the College may be obtained from the Headmaster or the Secretary.

LECTURES.

On September 30th Mr. Geoffrey Shaw gave us a talk on "Tunes" that was both amusing and instructive. He showed us how tunes are built up, and finally made us all sing with real gusto a song we had never heard before! Mr. Shaw found his audience specially interested because of the music appreciation classes that have always been an integral part of our school curriculum. We much look forward to his next visit.

THE SPECTRE IN BLACK.

Did he hear footsteps? He couldn't be sure. But—yes, there was a slight rustling movement faintly perceptible. He bent low over the book he was reading. Could the scarcely audible motion be...? The eerie stirring sounded profoundly ominous, as of some impending peril. With redoubled zest he settled down to read once more.... Surely it was drawing nearer! It was quite recognisable now. A cold, unreasoning fear gripped him. He dared not look up or even take his eyes off his book. Neither did he dare to listen for the approach of the ruthless rustling. Suddenly it stopped. There was a silence still more sinister than anything that had preceded it. A slight shiver ran down his spine. Good Heavens! He felt an iron hand upon his shoulder, and quaked. "Smith! A novel! Go to the study at once!" The master turned in his diabolically black gown and swished off.

A. WILCOX.

MEETING NOTES.

With an influx of eighteen new members, the General Meeting (consisting of Forms 6, 5, 4 and 3) presented an appearance at the beginning of the term very different from that of July. The break in continuity, however, was apparent rather than real. The Chairman and Secretary of the Summer Term—and the Meeting has had few better—held office for a second time, and the more important of the Committees were largely in the hands of senior members. So there were no startling changes in policy, and, as a matter of fact, there have been few new notes of criticism. That is not to say that the newcomers are lacking in interest or initiative. On the contrary, there are plenty of signs that they will be very active when they are fully acclimatised, and have lost their first natural diffidence.

Quite as interesting as the work of the Meeting proper have been the proceedings of its offshoot the Council, the jurisdiction of which extends to all members of the College, whether they are members of the Meeting or not. In the Autumn Term, when most new boys enter the College, the Council is occupied less in giving strictly judicial decisions than in quasi-paternal admonitions to the youngest among us as to what is honourable, and seemly, and sanitary; and on several occasions the remarks of the Chairman—a different person from the Chairman of the Meeting—could hardly have been bettered. As an organ for expressing, and sometimes enforcing, what is best in public opinion, the Council, composed mainly, but not entirely, of prefects, stands higher, I believe, than ever before.

Two cases that came before the Council are not unknown to adult communities—the person who spends more money than he has, and the person who has nothing for the tax collector but excuses. These problems, however, presented no difficulty, and the Council appropriated the offender's allowances until his obligations were satisfied.

With reference to the General Meeting, and its Committees. One of the first questions was how to organise football for increased numbers on our limited grounds. Although the principle of three compulsory days was adhered to, the Games Committee were given authority to arrange different days for different people. This authority they exercised, on the whole, judiciously. They were less successful in organising the refereeing of junior games, but not wholly, perhaps, through their own fault. The general arrangements of the football season were carried out most efficiently. One important decision of the Meeting was the recommendation that some Rugby football should be played as an experiment in the Spring Term.

The work of the Entertainments Committee is referred to elsewhere. But the Meeting must be congratulated on the election of a committee that improved on the work of their predecessors, and brought their labours to a triumphant conclusion on the last night of term.

A general impression of the Meeting is that it is inclined to be too cautious, and not to realise the extent of its power. As the senior members gradually leave the tendency to over-caution is likely to disappear.

[J. H. S.]

WITH THE FISHING FLEET.

The night before the fishing fleet of trawlers is to sail, the fish market is like day with the brilliant arc lights, the buzz of the steam winches, the rattle of porters' trucks and the hum of countless voices. Along the edge of the quay are bundles of nets and coils of rope and other gear.

On each trawler the derrick is swung over the quay and the nets and rope are hauled on board down into the hold. Coal and ice barges push their way in between the trawlers, and above the noise one can hear the rattle of coal and ice down the shoots.

When all is ready for the departure the flag-ship sounds her siren, and by twos and threes the whole fleet casts off and moves slowly out between the pier heads into the open sea. It is an amazing sight to see forty or fifty of these fine vessels getting under way in the dim light of the dawn.

Three hours later the fishing ground is reached, and orders can be seen flying from the flagship's masthead, and soon the whole fleet moves out in a long line abreast. Four or five carrier ships have come out with the fleet and these wait in the rear.

When all is ready, the trawl net is shot and the fleet moves ahead. The trawl net is a cone shaped bag with two heavy boards on each side of the opening to keep it open, and a thick rope along the bottom of the opening to prevent the net from getting damaged while scraping over the sea bed.

After trawling for a convenient time the net is pulled on board and the mouth end hoisted up the mast so that the other end, which is tied in a

knot, hangs over the hold. The knot is then undone and the fish fall in a heap in the hold, where they are sorted, and packed in boxes with ice. The carrier ships then come up and the boxes are transported in open rowing boats to them, this work being very dangerous in rough weather. The carrier ships then take the fish to the market and bring back food and supplies for the fleet. In this way the fleet may stay at sea for three or four weeks on end.

D. B. H. (Form III.)

REQUIESCAT.

(Written shortly after the untimely end of a well-beloved 'bus.)

Strew on her handfuls of earth,
And ever the "spray" renew.
Alone she seems full of mirth,
Ah, would that I was too!

Her speed the road required;
She bathed it in miles of smoke.
Somehow her tank got fired,
And soon they'll use her for coke.

Her engine was turning, turning,
In hazes of heat and sound;
To pieces she was burning,
In pieces all around.

Her filter'd motor spirit Flared and
burnt up well.

To-night she truly merits
The Vasty Hall of Hell.

M. H GLEESON-WHITE.

(With apologies to Matthew Arnold.)

THE CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT.

End of Term celebrations are too often of one fashion. This was different from others, and would have pleased an audience altogether devoid of that spirit of Christmas charity and parental pride which animated us. The plays were quick, brisk and moving; perhaps I had better say that *The Ghost of Jerry Bundler* was brisk and lively and kept our minds on the stretch, while Housman's play of "*Moonshine*" was a strange and tender composition fit to send us away in pleasant and sober thought, like dying strains of music.

Those responsible for the order of events are to be complimented on the excellence of their arrangement.

I think of the plays first because they were so delightfully and successfully presented. The singing was hearty enough to satisfy the Vikings themselves, and resounded manfully through the hall. D. Dakin's song of the rustic music-makers was diverting, but he should have made more of the humour of the character. The School Choir followed with a rendering of W. W. Pearson's "*Three Doughty Men*," and a quartette of W. S. Morgan, K. Morgan, M. Gleeson-White and D. Dakin with their song of "*Goslings*." The younger folks next sang a Christmas song, "*Gather the Holly Bough*," with much feeling. M. Gleeson-White did some excellent conjuring. He was in some uncertainty over the red and white handkerchiefs, but saved the mystery of his craft from the spectators. His by-play with T. B. Harrison made much mirth. As Master of the Revels, in fool's cap

and bells and motley coat, the latter showed a ready wit and spouted some free and pleasant lines as an introduction to each scene.

In *The Ghost of Jerry Bundler* the parts of Hurst, Penfold and the waiter George were ably played. The touches of suspense and terror in this play, which depend greatly upon the composure of the actors and the skilful lighting of the stage, were given to great advantage; the moment before the shot, when the lights go out, raised a delicious thrill and shiver in every seat. R. H. Newport as Hurst, and A. Wilcox as Penfold did very good work. The latter's imitation of an old man was accurate and full of humour.

The play, which ended a pleasant ninety minutes, was a fantasy of mingled emotions. The Pierrot and the Policeman had our votes. Santa Claus is not an easy part to play, even off the stage, as most of us will find next week, and A. C. Wager seemed uneasy under his stuffing. Knefel's voice was clear, resonant and distinct—an excellent thing in amateurs.

It was not only an uncommonly well-chosen show, but an uncommonly well-prepared show, and those who played it without one false line or slipshod utterance have done something for their own good as well as ours.

[A. C. M.]

PROGRAMME.

OVERTURE

Henry VIII. Dances... *Edward German.*

W. S. MORGAN AND K. J. MORGAN.

THE FOOL J. B. HARRISON.

ONE-ACT PLAY,

" *THE GHOST OF GERRY BUNDLER,* "

By W. W. Jacobs.

The scene is the Commercial Room in a small Hotel.

CHARACTERS:

Hurst	R. H. NEWPORT
Penfold	A. WILCOX
Malcolm	H. T. PRICE

Somers E. WEBSTER
 Beldon H. P. DAINTON
 Doctor Leek ... W. M. TUGWELL
 George (a Waiter) ... A. J. DAVIS

SONGS.

The Carol Singers ... *Sterndale Bennett*
 D. DAKIN.
 Three Doughtie Men *W. W. Pearson*
 THE CHOIR.
 Goslings *Sir F. Bridge*
 W. S. MORGAN, K. MORGAN, M. GLEESON-WHITE,
 D. DAKIN.
 Gather the Holly Bough *H. Watts*
 FORMS I. AND II.
 The Three Dragons *J. Brown*
 C. G. V. TAYLOR, W. S. BOARDMAN,
 E. D. BOULDING.
 The Song of the Vikings *Eaton Faring*
 THE CHOIR.

CONJURING.

Conjuror M. GLEESON-WHITE.

ONE-ACT PLAY:

"MOONSHINE,"

By *Laurence Housman.*

The Scene is in a street on Christmas Eve.

CHARACTERS:

Policeman..... D. FIELD.
 Pierrot F. KNEFEL
 Old Woman H. J. PHILLIPS
 Santa Claus... .. A. C. WAGER

SINGERS IN THE CHOIR:

W. S. Boardman, E. D. Boulding, P. Harding,
 M. H. Martin, D. Uzzell, R. C. Waters, J. Lambert,
 T. Evans, N. Durham, J. Allen, C. G. V. Taylor, C.
 W. Wells, A. C. Wager, R. Townsend, C. Price,
 J. Eyles, A. P. Browning, E. Webster, H. T. Price,
 K. J. Morgan, A. J. Davis, C. W. Clarke, M.
 Gleeson-White, W. S. Morgan, D. Dakin & D. W.
 L. Browne.

SERVICES.

Two school services were held last term. The addresses were given by the Reverend Harold Anson, of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, on October 31st, and by the Reverend C. Grahame-Swan, Rector of Chedworth, on November 21st.

**ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.
 CHRISTMAS TERM.**

At first sight the completed fixture list looks distinctly discouraging. Sixty-three goals have been scored against us, and only thirty-five for us. These figures compare unfavourably with those of former years. It must be remembered, however, that the average age of the players in the first XI. is considerably less than that of last year, while the fixture list has been equally ambitious. Again, one or two of the teams we have played are better than they were last season. Yet allowing for these modifications, together with the fact that we have been handicapped by injuries, somehow the term's football has not been entirely satisfactory.

The team has gone as hard as in former years; the players have gone "all out" to the end. The school possesses plenty of potential footballers. But yet we have continually lost matches, in some of which we had the better of the game. Our losses may partly be attributed to the fact that we do not possess a first-class centre-forward. We have always had difficulty in finding a suitable person for this position. The deficiency has been more noticeable this season. Last year we had two or three forwards who could dribble through on their own and obtain goals. The forwards, as a line, did not matter so much. This year, however, we have lost those players, and it was necessary to change our tactics. The result was a failure. Morgan, who is a fast and excellent outside-right, proved ineffective at centre because of his inability to kick with both feet, and consequently to hold the line together.

In the second place, we lost time and again because our forwards did not play intelligent football. It is a superstition to suppose that forwards must move always in a straight line. A W or triangular formation are far more effective. But that is not enough. Any formation is doomed to failure if players will not use their intelligence. The formation should continually be altered. Players must always move to a position where they are unmarked and have a chance of running through to score. We do not wish to disparage dribbling; the more the better. But dribbling without intelligent combination is futile.

Several of the forwards have improved during the season. Baxter and Weaver, the wing men, have played several good games. But they should remember to centre much quicker, and rarely at a right angle. They have tended to come in to shoot rather too much. This is an effective trick if not overdone. Dainton, at inside-left, tends to play back too much. We hope, however, that he will make a good centre-half next term. Honeybone played well at inside-left early in the season, but he was really too light for that position. Nicholson took his place in the last match. He should make a good forward if he would remember to pass in front of instead of behind his partners.

The defence has done well throughout the season except for a few lapses. We were unlucky to lose Smallwood in goal, but Wager has been a good substitute. He is rather small as yet, but he deals effectively with low shots. The wing halves played hard, but not always intelligently. Tugwell must learn not to kick wildly when near goal. He should also keep his passes low. However, he is quite a fierce tackler. Gleeson-White

is rather slow in turning and in getting rid of the ball cleanly. He would do better if he would concentrate on getting the ball rather than solely charging the man. To tackle effectively both actions should be done simultaneously. Gleeson-White is very useful with his head. Both wing halves have often failed to mark their wing men, and, when passed, to make straight for the inside forwards.

Davis and Elwell have played consistently at full-back. Davis is the most improved player in the side. Since he learnt to head the ball later in the term he has rarely been "rattled." He would do well, however to learn to kick accurately on the bounce. His tackling is admirable, and is always perfectly timed. Elwell heads the ball well. He kicks hard and accurately with his left foot. He is still weak with his right foot, and tends to miskick, but he has gradually improved.

The prospects for the next few seasons are promising. In Form III there are several good footballers. It is advisable that boys should watch good football whenever they can, especially the play of good forwards. They will learn what a great part good positions play. They will also realise the utility of the reverse pass. Young players who wish to become good footballers must remember that they are not machines. They must play as individuals; they must not be afraid to take responsibility. But they must combine with their colleagues. Good combination is not playing as a machine. It is individual play regarded from the standpoint of the team.

All young players should practise shooting hard and low with both feet; also heading and kicking on the bounce and in the air.

We think it a wise move on the part of the meeting to make the 2nd XI. matches for this term "A" games. They should give useful help towards discovering a centre-forward for next season.

D. D.

The above remarks make no reference to the most pleasing and successful side of the 1st XI's play during the past term—namely, the play of the captain. Again and again in matches it has been remarked that Dakin was in a different class from the other players on either side. He has never failed the side, and, while taking the heaviest part of the burden on his own back, he has always been here to encourage others. Realising how much the football of the College owes to his play and example during the past few years, we shall watch his future career as a footballer with grateful interest.

AT RENDCOMB.

God smiled when he made Rendcomb
That's on a Cotswold hill,
A jewel on a wooded slope,
A place where all is still Save for the
noise of schoolboys,
And rustling sounds in trees,
The blacksmith at his anvil,
The murm'ring hum of bees.

God's beauty over Rendcomb When
leaves are falling fast,
And fields are strewn with twigs and
leaves—
This beauty cannot last.
This beauty cannot last, for The Winter
snow must fall;
Then twigs and leaves are covered,
And barn and lowly stall.

W. J. SOLES.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL- 1926.

OCT. 2ND. — THE COLLEGE, 2; OLD BOYS, 11.

The team was not quite at full strength for this match; the left back was away. The College defence held the Old Boys' forward line quite well in the early stages of the game, but ultimately the weight of the Old Boys told. Stanley, Daubeny and White obtained most of the Old Boys' goals. The College forwards were weak, especially in front of the goal.

Teams. — Old Boys: H. Jones (goal); Smith and Brooks (backs); Barwell Gough and Theobald (halves); Terrett, Daubeny, White, Stanley and Newport (forwards).

College: Smallwood (goal); Tugwell and Davis (backs); Gleeson- White, Dakin, Morgan, K. (halves); Baxter, Dainton, Clarke, Morgan, W. S., Weaver.

OCT. 9. — THE COLLEGE, 3; SWINDON SECONDARY SCHOOL, 1. AWAY.

Team: Smallwood; Elwell and Davis; Gleeson-White, Dakin and Tugwell; Baxter, Dainton, Morgan, W., Honeybone and Weaver.

The game was spoilt by a high wind which blew diagonally across the pitch. The College won because they adopted the right tactics. When playing with the wind they never kicked too hard, while the halves and backs fed against the wind to allow the wing-forwards to centre easily. The shooting was quite good, while Smallwood played well in goal.

OCT. 13. — THE COLLEGE, 7; TEWKESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, 7. AT HOME.

In the first ten minutes the College defence broke down, owing to the in-

ability of the wing halves to mark the wing men and the lack of understanding between halves and backs. The College team, however, pulled the game round, and all the second half they were pressing hard. Had the shooting been better the College might easily have won.

OCTOBER 20. — THE COLLEGE, 2;

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE, 4. AT HOME.

The College scored twice early in the game with long shots by Morgan and Dakin. At half time the score was 2-1 in our favour. In the second half the game was even except for ten minutes, when the Wycliffe forwards scored three goals. On the whole it was a quite creditable performance on the part of the College team.

OCT. 30. — THE COLLEGE, 7; BURFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, 2. AT HOME.

The College had the better of the game throughout. Had their shooting been better the margin of goals might have been even greater.

Nov. 11. — THE COLLEGE, 3; DEAN CLOSE 2ND XI., 6. AT HOME.

In the first half the College played quite well against their heavier opponents; in fact, throughout they played creditably except for a disastrous ten minutes in the second half. On the run of the play a draw would have been a fair result.

Nov.13. — THE COLLEGE, 4; CHELTENHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL, 8. AT HOME.

This game was played under trying conditions and our younger forwards found the ball too heavy. Nevertheless, the team flayed hard throughout. The visiting goalkeeper gave an excellent display and saved many dangerous shots. Cheltenham

were certainly the better team, but had the College had a little more "luck" the score might have been much more even.

NOVEMBER 20. — THE COLLEGE, 0;

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE, 5. AWAY.

The ground was in a deplorable condition owing to the recent heavy rains. As in the last two matches, the College was not at full strength. Wager, our second goalkeeper, played a really good game. The College defence was fairly sound. Davis and Elwell at back did a great deal of good work. The forwards were terribly weak and seemed unable to move on the heavy ground.

Nov. 27. — THE COLLEGE, 4; TEWKESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, 10. AWAY.

The game was not so one-sided as indicated by the score. In the first quarter of an hour the forwards missed many chances and showed inability to shoot effectively like the Tewkesbury forwards in the latter stages of the game. The wing-halves were weak, being for the most part unable to mark their forwards. The uneven ground was difficult for us, but a lesson can be drawn. The College team must learn to kick accurately on the bounce if they are to win matches in the future.

DEC. 2. — THE COLLEGE, 1; DEAN CLOSE 2ND XI., 5. AWAY.

In endeavouring to discover a centre-forward the team was rearranged. Tugwell, however, was not a success. Indeed, throughout, all the forwards failed to finish, after really good play in midfield. Once again the wing-halves failed to mark their men sufficiently well.

DEC. 4. — THE COLLEGE, 2; SWINDON SECONDARY SCHOOL, 4. AT HOME.

This fixture provided one of the

best games of the season. Swindon fielded a rather stronger team than the one we met earlier in the season. Early in the game our goal had several narrow escapes, but gradually the College defence settled down. Elwell and Davis played particularly well. The College forwards, however, missed several good chances in the second half. Judging from the play the College ought to have forced a draw.

D. DAKIN.

"A" TEAM.

OCT. 6. — THE COLLEGE "A," 0; CORINTH COLLEGE, 4.

OCT. 27. — THE COLLEGE "A" 5; KING'S SCHOOL, 3.

DEC. 15. — THE COLLEGE "A" 3; KING'S SCHOOL, 4.

SECOND XI.

OCT. 16. — THE COLLEGE II., 0; DEAN CLOSE (under 15), 3.

DEC. 2. — THE COLLEGE II., 0; DEAN CLOSE (under 15), 9.

WINSON.

Winson is only a little village on the Coin, about seven miles from Cirencester, and two-and-a-half miles from Bibury. It is on the right bank of the river, on the edge of the valley. It possesses two farms, a church, a smithy, a post office and two shops.

The church is small, with two bells, and no tower. There are three Norman arches, one at the entrance, one opposite it blocked up, and the chancel arch. The pews are of oak, and the pulpit is of white stone, new, and glowing. The organ stands at the back of the church, and seems

rather big for such a small place. The chancel is very highly decorated, but the nave is quite plain.

There is one big house, large and square. It stands just north of the church, and the road has to bend round it. There have been some accidents at that curve; the village green is just below.

Below the green is the carpenter's shop, a long, low building, with a red corrugated iron roof. The post office is on the south side of the green, and is an Elizabethan house, not the whole of it, but about half. Below this again is a big barn, and then there is the river. It is not very wide or deep, except in places. The village children paddle in it and catch crayfish in the summer. There is a water-mill at the northern end of the village, at the bottom of two hills, one leading to Calcott, and one leading to Winson.

On the other side of the river, towards Bibury, are Ablington Downs. The chief feature is the Downs Bottom, which is a long water course, in which the river has been long dried up. On the east side of the valley is an old road, or rather, a cart track, which leads from Ablington to Dudley. In the village is a field in which many elm trees grow, and on this account it is called "The Elms"; as one comes into the village from the west, one only sees one house on account of them.

D. FIELD (Form III.).

The Editor will be grateful to receive subscriptions to the magazine— 4s. 6d. — for the year ending July, 1927.

In each number of the magazine the name or initials of writers of articles other than those by boys will be found in brackets.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

There were four meetings of the Society last term. At the first, on October 3rd, members read "The Doctors' Dilemma," by G. B. Shaw.

On October 30th, Mr. G. H. Claypole, of Birkenhead College, read us a paper on "The Short Story." He said that it is representative of this age just as the novel was of the last. He pointed out the almost illimitable scope for subjects, and discussed various types of tale. He illustrated the technique of short-story writing by reading extracts that sent us afterwards to their sources for more. The discussion that followed was the best that we have had, and we are extremely grateful to Mr. Claypole for coming so far to read so excellent a paper.

Mr. A. K. Ingram, editor of "The Green Quarterly," talked to us, on November 13th, about Journalism. He divided his paper into three parts — personal experience, a survey of modern journalism, and journalism as a profession — and it is impossible to say which was the most interesting. He told us so much that we did not know, that discussion took the form of a shower of questions, and Mr. Ingram's task was doubled. We thank him very much for giving us the benefit of his experience and knowledge.

The gathering on December 19th was in the nature of a party rather than a meeting. In the belief that the greatest danger to literature is that it may be taken too seriously, members read light extracts from a diversity of authors, and contributed original, if flippant parodies of serious works.

[R. R.]

THE LAND (V. SACKVILLE=WEST).

"The Land" is a simple, continuous poem telling of man's ceaseless struggle with the soil. It gives the story of the four seasons and their relation to the art of tillage, and showing how even to-day one finds the same type of man as shepherd as one might have found in the days of ancient Greece.

The whole theme of Winter is patient toil with the unkind earth. This section of the poem conveys the impression of the dark and still solitude of the countryside in the depth of winter.

In Spring one is given an idea of the unwillingness of Winter to yield to kind Summer. The countryside wears an air of expectancy, and so in the time when Nature is kindest she rejuvenates herself.

Summer is a kind season, and of its heat is born the harvest in which all men are joyful.

The wheat having been gathered, one must prepare for the threshing which is done in Autumn, and so after the fruits of the orchard have been gathered one must thresh and winnow. Having completed the harvest once more, one turns to the soil to wrest from it another return.

There is a pleasant contrast formed when the poet compares the slow and steady English harvest with the vintage of the fierce Italian summer. Throughout the poem one finds the

poet like a wise old farmer, giving homely advice to other husbandmen less experienced. The soil is spoken of as "the slave and tyrant," and the poet has striven successfully to show that "there is a bond between the men who go

From youth about the business of the earth,
And the earth they serve, their cradle and their grave."

The whole poem is full of the quiet and patient spirit of English agriculture, and its whole beauty lies in its classical simplicity.

F. H. JONES.

THE SEASONS.

As I go walking in the Spring
I think how sweet the birds all sing;
Tall daffodils wave in the grass
Bowling and whisp'ring as I pass.

In Summer we all bathing go
Where many water-lilies grow;
And many a rose grows on the wall,
With petals drifting in the hall.

When all the leaves fall to the ground,
And twitt'ring swallows gather round,
And all the foliage changes hue—
The Summer bids good-bye to you.

In Winter when Jack Frost is out
He puts with cold the sun to rout;
When all the world is clothed in white
The carol-singers come at night.

W. JONES and A. P. BROWNING.

(Form III.)

THE LIBRARY.

This term we have added about twenty volumes of French fiction to the library. Other new books include W. W. Gibson's Poems, presented by the Headmaster; Halévy's History of the English People, Vol. I.; the Life and Letters of Walter H. Page, by B. T. Hendrick; A Modern History of the English People, by R. H. Gretton; Revolution and Reaction in Modern France, by G. Lowes Dickinson; J. B. Morley's Essays.

Boys have read many more books this term—the unmathematical assistant librarian estimates the increase at 30 per cent. Fiction, of course, has been most popular. Among "subject" books the few works on biology that we possess have been most in demand.

THE LIBRARIAN.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

Last term the Entertainments Committee aimed at providing amusements, not only for the older people but for those in the lower forms, every evening.

A departure from the ordinary line was the "Entertainment in the Music Room," a social evening in which various people sang and recited, and in which were included numerous drawing-room recreations. This proved extremely popular and will be further developed this term.

The entertainment on the last night of the term consisted, as usual, of a whist drive, a dance, and various games, all of which took place in fancy dress. The array of costumes was exceedingly good and contributed largely towards a very successful evening.