

# RENDCOMB COLLEGE

## Magazine

February, 1932

Vol. IV, No. 2

### In Memoriam

The last number of the Magazine appeared a few days before the death of Major Dawson, which took place in London on Sept. 30th, & no reference, therefore, was possible to one who had been associated in peculiar intimacy with the fortunes of the College since it was founded in 1920. As Trustee, Governor, and member of the Finance Committee, as the Agent of our Founder, and subsequently the Administrator of his estates, Major Dawson played a very important part in the direction of the affairs of the College, and he devoted himself to its interests with the patience, thoroughness, and strong sense of duty that so markedly characterised his whole life. Though he was naturally concerned primarily with the finances of the College, he took an interest in every aspect of its work, and was proud of any success, gained in any sphere, by a Rendcomb boy. The outdoor part of our life, perhaps, particularly appealed to him, and one of the greatest debts that we owe him is for all that he did for the enlargement and improvement of our playing field. An enthusiastic cricketer, and a very sound critic of the game he was always keen to promote the College cricket, and it was largely his genial and encouraging presence that made the Misarden matches such popular events of the summer term. But it was also clear, to anyone who discussed such things with him, that he had a deep sense of the spiritual forces that can animate school life, and a strong belief that education achieves its real aim in the strengthening of character.

comb, Mr. Hurnall won universal regard, and in many ways, and notably by his interest in our acting, did good service to the school. We shall be glad to hear that he is restored to good health.

\* \* \*

We warmly welcome to the staff Mr. C. A. E. Fogden, who joined us in the middle of last term.

\* \* \*

We heartily congratulate C. G. V. Taylor on winning an Open Exhibition for History at New College, Oxford.

\* \* \*

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Lee Browne on the birth of a son, born on the 17th of October, 1931.

\* \* \*

The number of boys in the College this term is 64. The following left the College last term:—E. J. Miller, W. T. Greenway, F. J. Batten, K. H. Nelson, and G. D. Waters. New boys who joined the College this term are:—J. D. Timpson (S. Michael's, Uckfield), J. W. B. Whall (New Oakfield, Rugby) J. F. Roper (Tibberton Court, Gloucester).

\* \* \*

We congratulate A. M. Wilson and G. D. Waters on gaining Certificates with Honours at the London University General School Examination in December. D. Uzzell, J. H. Dixon, D. C. Vaughan, G. D. Waters, and A. M. Wilson obtained Matriculation Certificates. C. Sidgwick, G. K. Noble, and J. M. Kirkman obtained School Certificates.

\* \* \*

The new Laboratory in the stable buildings came into use very soon after the beginning of last term, and has proved already to be an unqualified success. Not only is it well adapted for teaching purposes, but the prob-

lems of heating and lighting have been solved most satisfactorily. As a result of this development, more advanced work in Science, for example work directed to the Higher School Certificates, will now be possible, and eventually no doubt, some boys will enter for University Scholarships in Science.

\* \* \*

The former Laboratory provides a much needed extension of the Manual Workshop.

\* \* \*

Prefects for the Easter Term are:— C. W. Wells, J. Allen, J. H. Dixon (South); C. Taylor, W. S. Boardman, J. R. Wheeler, A. R. Curtis (East).

\* \* \*

The following are among those elected by the General Meeting to positions of responsibility —Chairman, J. R. Wheeler; Secretary, A. D. Thomas; Captain of Hockey, J. E. Allen; Shopmen, J. E. Alien, C. G. V. Taylor, W. S. Boardman; Banker: C. W. Wells; Finance Committee, C. W. Wells, J. R. Davies-G. M. Wilson; Captain of Cricket, A. R. Curtis; Secretary of Cricket, M. H. Martin; House Committee, A. Wilson, J. R. Wheeler, D. C. Vaughan, D. Uzzell, A. E. Shield.

\* \* \*

Contributions to the Magazine which are signed by names or initials in brackets are not written by boys.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Editor will be glad to receive all outstanding subscriptions (3/- p.a.) for the year ending July, 1931. Subscriptions for the current year are now due.

## OLD BOYS' NOTES

N. A. Perkins has been playing Chess for Oxford University and for Oxfordshire County.

A. P. Browning is at the Training College for Teachers at Dudley.

A. G. Ensor is taking a course of Commercial subjects at the Cheltenham

Technical School, preparatory to going into business in Spain.

M. Gleeson-White writes very happily from Coimbatore, Southern India, where he is under training as a Forest Officer.

W. Burns joined the Royal Marines in September, and is at present at Deal.

E. J. Miller is working in the office of a firm of Architects in Cirencester.

V. D. Page is about to enter the works of the English Electrical Company at Stafford, as an apprentice.

R. G. Daubeny will shortly be taking up the post of Private Secretary to the Governor of Bihar and Orissa. He will not, therefore, be having any leave in England at present.

R. Hutton left Halton in December, and has been posted to the No.99 (Bomber) Squadron, R. A. F., at Upper Heyford, near Oxford.

A. Wilcox is Captain of the Cross-country running at Reading, and has also played Chess for the University.

A. A. Caley is a Cadet in the Lampport and Holt Line.

L. F. Stradling was married on the 25th November to Miss Dulcie Dally of Brimscombe. He is engaged in poultry farming at Brimscombe.

B. J. Brooks has left the Iraq Command, and has been posted to No. 1 (Indian) Wing, R. A. F., Kohat, North West Frontier Provinces, India. He was in hospital at Kohat when the attack was made by the Red Shirts at the end of December.

W. S. Morgan writes from Malaya, where he is teaching at the English College, Johore Bahru, Johore. This is situated on the coast facing Singapore.

P. R. Woodruff is working with Messrs. John Swain, Ltd., Seed Merchants, of Bristol.

A. J. Stanley was married to Miss Molly Bennett-Howell of Fontane, Fishguard, on December 19th, 1931, at Stratford-on-Avon.

## OLD BOY'S DINNER

On November 14th, the second of what is hoped will be a long series of Old Boys' Dinners was held at "Ye Olde Ship" Inn, Whitehall. By 7:30 the company was complete in a comfortable room on the first floor, with the exception of one member of the party who, a little later, made a most dramatic entrance, clothed in a beautiful Teddy Bear coat and profuse apologies.

A company of fourteen, graced by the welcome presence of the Headmaster, enjoyed a well-chosen meal. At the end of dinner, Dakin, in proposing the toast of the College, very ably expressed our deep sense of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Simpson for the warm hospitality that always awaits us at Rendcomb, and to the Headmaster for his never failing efforts to keep us in touch, not only with Rendcomb, but also with each other, and expressed the view, apparently generally held, that in the circumstances any formal Old Boys' Association was not yet necessary. He also conveyed our thanks to Dan Terrett, who organised the dinner, and to whose efforts the unqualified success of the evening was almost entirely due.

The Headmaster, after a strenuous afternoon, spent between laughter and tears, at a matinee of "Cavalcade", interspersed the more serious Rendcomb news with amusing tales of boys, past and present, and kept the company vastly interested and entertained. It was a great pity he was obliged to leave so early.

The whole evening went with a great swing, as did the window at one point during the evening, admitting an icy blast that reminded one irresistibly of those far off Spartan days in 1920 before Rendcomb knew the comfort of central heating.

Though I look forward to the next Old Boys' Dinner, I am convinced that it can be an improvement on the last only in point of numbers.

The following Old Boys were present: D. Dakin, L. B. White, R. H. Newport, B. V. Harris, D. C. Terrett, D. A. Cooper, J. A. Davis, C. W. Clarke, H. C. Nicholson, F. Knefel, G. T. Morgan, C. E. Hartland, C. S. T. Widdrington.

[R. H. N.]

## THE CHRISTMAS PLAYS

To many, the Christmas spirit in 1931 has seemed elusive, or almost non-existent, but everyone who was privileged to be present at Rendcomb College on the afternoon of December 19th, must have felt that there, at any rate, it was not lacking. The visitors were welcomed with gay decorations and blazing fires, which all helped to stimulate a pleasant feeling of anticipation, destined not to be disappointed.

The three short plays were admirably chosen and gave opportunities for actors of different ages to display their talent in varied roles.

The cast of the first play "The Golden Doom" by Lord Dunsany, was as follows:—

First Sentry ..... J. E. Allen.  
Second Sentry... W. T. Greenway.  
Stranger ..... A. M. Wilson.  
Boy ..... V. W. Pullin.  
Girl ..... D. G. Morison.  
First Spy ..... M. H. Martin.  
Second Spy ..... A. R. Curtis.  
Third Spy ..... R. C. Waters.  
King ..... C. Sidgwick.  
Chamberlain ..... E. D. Boulding.  
Courtier..... O. G. Morel.  
Prophet ..... D. Uzzell.  
Second Prophet ..... L. Robinson.  
Attendant ..... J. F. Roberts.  
Chief Prophet ..... C. W. Wells.

Scene: —Outside the King's Great Door in Zericon.

The outstanding feature of this was the excellent team-work. Each member of the cast had something to contribute to the charm of the play as a whole, but a word of special praise is due to C. Sidgwick for his presentation of the King, dignified in speech and bearing in the face of impending doom, and to C. W. Wells who, with his wild-eyed gauntness created a vivid picture of the Chief Prophet.

The staging of the play was particularly pleasing. The simplicity of line, excellence of grouping, and beauty of movement, conveyed an impression reminiscent of that left by a classical frieze.

The cast of the "Purple Bedroom" by Eden Philpotts, was:—

Reginald Smith ..... J. R. Wheeler.  
Alfred Bassett (his valet) ..... J. H. Dixon.  
Don Pedro de Parambo ..... A. R. Curtis.

The Earl Fitzdoodle ..... W. S. Boardman.  
 Ann ..... M. C. Richardson.  
 Scene: – The Purple Bedroom of Roborough  
 Castle.

This play offered a strong contrast to the first. Here the excellence lay chiefly in the strikingly good acting of J. H. Dixon. He greatly amused the audience with his clever sketch of Alfred Bassett, the imperturbable valet, who managed his facial expression and mismanaged his aitches in an equally humorous way.

J. R. Wheeler, as his master, Reginald Smith, gave a creditable performance and the parts of the ghosts, especially that of Ann, were well taken. A mishap in the lighting arrangements must have proved somewhat disconcerting to the actors.

The panelling used in this play, with its secret door, made in the College workshop, was very effective.

The cast of "The Peace Egg", a mumming play, was: –

Fool ..... H. C. Hanks.  
 St. George..... A. E. Brain.  
 Slasher ..... N. Slade.  
 Doctor ..... W. Y. Willetts.  
 Prince Paradine..... C. E. Coles.  
 King of Egypt ..... R. M. Campbell.  
 Beelzebub..... A. D. Thomas.  
 Devil Dout ..... G. A. Lowe.

This play gave an opportunity to some of the younger members of the school, and the spirited acting, especially that of H. C. Hanks, as the Fool, and G. A. Lowe as Devil Dout, gave good promise for the future.

## LECTURES

On October 9th, the school listened to an interesting and unusual Lecture. The lecturer was Mr. Burford, and his subject 'Town Planning'. Treating his subject historically, Mr. Burford's main theme was the gradual emergence of a conception of planning which looked to the town as a whole, and not simply to the individual buildings which comprised the town.

Dealing first of all with the Greeks, the lecturer showed how they had confined their attention to, and concentrated all their efforts upon, the individual building. While

the beauty and harmony of the particular building might be a triumph, there was apparently no thought of its relation to the surrounding buildings. The building, not the town, was the entity. Passing to Roman times there was little progress to be noted, though there is to be found some attempt to relate the various buildings in each group. The deliberate planning of a town in its entirety is still unknown.

It is not surprising that mediaeval civilization, with its underlying ideal of unity should have been the first to seek some sort of design and unity in its towns. For when development begins again after the barbarian irruptions, it works with new foundations, and is imbued with what Mr. Burford described as "the Western spirit."

In the centre of the mediaeval town stood the Church and town hall, buildings which typified the two great elements in mediaeval life,—the Church and State, be the latter Empire or Commune. The importance of these buildings was accentuated by a widening of the roads immediately surrounding them. Here was formed a centre or heart, from which the tortuous mediaeval streets radiated. In the larger towns there were sometimes subordinate centres, but in most cases these, too, were definitely related to the main 'hub', or centre. Mr. Burford pointed out another interesting feature of mediaeval planning,—the tendency to arrange the approaches to the more important buildings in such a manner that they were rarely seen in their entirety, but from varying angles and viewpoints, thus creating that atmosphere of mystery, so dear to the mediaeval mind.

The Renaissance, with its attempt to return to classicism, represented a loss. In this, as in so many other fields, the Renaissance was an intellectual resurrection, adopting but not absorbing. The next serious development took place in the 19th century, and it was a development conditioned by economic considerations, and wholly unfortunate in its results. Mr. Burford showed us a slide of Fulham with its row upon row of uniform red brick "boxes". This slide also was sufficiently representative of 19th century planning, or rather lack of planning.

In closing, Mr. Burford spoke of the ideals actuating planners of modern towns. Limitation of size, leading to a retention of individuality, by the development of satellite towns outside a fringe of woodland encircl-

ing the parent town, was perhaps the most interesting point in this connection. Finally, we were shown a plan for the proposed reconstruction of the civic centre of Birmingham and, what was still more interesting, a plan of Valetta, the capital of Malta, which was the production of Mr. Burford himself.

On the subsequent Sunday evening, Mr. Burford was present at a small informal gathering of Senior hoys. Discussion ranged over many aspects of the subject; many questions were asked of Mr. Burford, and he dealt with them all in a most interesting manner.

On Thursday, October 15th, Major Tyas gave us a very interesting lecture entitled "Wings of the Empire". He first explained some of the uses to which aeroplanes are now supplied, other than for travel and transport. Land surveying by photography and the charting of reefs, sandbanks and wrecks are both possible. Aircraft can also be a considerable help to industries such as fishing, forestry, and agriculture. In countries where the population is small and widely dispersed he showed the use that aeroplanes could be as ambulances. He then took us on a trip to India with Sir Samuel Hoare, starting from Cairo, and showing us pictures of places worthy of note, on the journey, such as the great Pyramids and the Sundial at Juntamanta.

In conclusion he showed us pictures of planes above the clouds in continual sunshine, catching glimpses of the earth between the banks.

On October 22nd, Mr. Kirkman gave a lecture entitled "How Birds and Beasts Behave." Mr. Kirkman said that behaviour was of two kinds—instinctive and acquired. In the latter class he included the habit. He gave numerous examples of each kind of behaviour, and pointed out that most people gave animals credit for an intelligence which was merely instinct. He showed also that instinct persisted in an animal, no matter whether it was useful, or useless, or positively dangerous. Mr. Kirkman's lecture was enjoyed by all, and we believe that his slides stimulated the enthusiasm of the school's amateur photographers.

On November 11th, Miss Simpson took as the title of her lecture "Early Inhabitants of the Cotswolds", and introduced to one

of the most interesting subjects of the term. Not only was the subject of interest to us on its own merits, but also owing to the fact that many of us were intimately connected with the district.

For this type of research, Gloucestershire is one of the most favourable counties, as it used to be one of the most flourishing and thickly populated counties of England.

Miss Simpson began by showing to us slides illustrating the difference in scenery between the edge and the top of the Cotswold escarpment.

Some of the oldest fossils discovered have been found in Gloucestershire. From these fossils estimates of what the animals were like during their lifetime have been made.

The advent, in later years, of The Ice Age considerably altered the type of animal. After this had passed, millions of years later, the first man inhabited the earth. These early inhabitants, of the caveman type, were superseded later by those of the Bronze age, who showed considerable development in the domestication of animals, the use of spears rather than stone flints; and the use of cloth for clothes in place of animal furs and skins. After a short summary of the traces left behind by the men of the Bronze age, Miss Simpson briefly referred to a vastly interesting subject, that of Aerial Photography as a means of ascertaining today how our predecessors planned their towns and roads.

A short account of the influences which decide village planning in the Cotswolds ended a talk which opened many new channels of investigation for us, and which covered a far greater ground than is suggested by the title.

On November 27th, Mr. Andrews gave us an extremely interesting lecture on "The Story of Wireless", which was illustrated by a large number of slides.

He showed us tables giving the dates of various important events and discoveries in connection with the history of wireless. This was followed by a description of various kinds of wave in various media, and the result of mixing two or more waves.

The lecture was brought to a close by illustrations of various valves and sets having more special uses; the most conspicuous being the wireless sets for use in aeroplanes.

## DISCUSSION SOCIETY

At a meeting of the Discussion Society, held on December 6th, Mr. Seton White spoke on Modern Sculpture. His talk came at a time when it was very much needed, for many members of the Society had quite forgotten that sculpture existed as a modern art—so accustomed were they to the pictures of classical sculpture, continually before them. In introducing his subject, Mr. Seton White mentioned the futility of the controversy on the respective merits of carving and modelling, and he illustrated his lecture with pictures of both. These pictures were a source of great enjoyment to the Society, and, as he had brought an epidiascope with him, Mr. Seton White was able to show a large number of them—chiefly from the Modern French school.

The discussion which followed was unfortunately cut short, but it showed, nevertheless, that the lecture had aroused much interest. We look forward to hearing Mr. Seton White again.

## THE ORIGIN OF FOOTBALL

*(Attributed to Dryden)*

From enmity, from fearful enmity  
This universal game began,  
When this man underneath the foot  
Of that, his conqueror, lay,  
And begged for life in dread.  
[In vain, too, for the victor's sword  
Soon, severed swift his head]  
The victor raised the head on high  
And, poising it upon his foot  
He kicked it to the sky.  
From enmity from fearful enmity  
This universal game began:  
From enmity to enmity,  
From worse to worse, and yet to worse it  
ran, until at last it brought the "Football  
Fan."

J. R. W.

## FOOTBALL

For the first time in the history of the College we have to chronicle a football season that was, so far as the results of outside matches were concerned, thoroughly unsuccessful; and this fact should, perhaps, remind us how fortunate we have been in having, in the past, a number of teams whose success bore no relation to the size of the College. Various subsidious reasons for

failure, last term, can be adduced, for instance, a number of minor injuries to permanent members of the team, and in certain matches the run of the luck seemed to be against us. But the fact of the matter was, that, for once, the sixth and fifth forms happened to contain a relatively large proportion of boys who were not naturally athletes. In a small school this is decidedly fatal to the production of a good team, granted any amount of good will and practice—and last term there might, perhaps, have been more of the latter.

Six of last year's very successful team remained, and should have formed the nucleus of a successful side, but it was soon apparent that there would be great difficulty in filling the vacant places. In fact it cannot be said that they were, any of them, filled quite satisfactorily. For the first matches, the team was arranged as follows: M. H. Martin; J. E. Allen, J. H. Dixon; A. M. Wilson, F. J. Batten; J. M. Kirkman; R. C. Waters, W. T. Greenway, C. Wells, A. R. Curtis, D. C. Uzzell. An injury to Wells, the most experienced forward in the team, kept him out of several matches, and, though he played again late in the term, he was never able to play with confidence. The re-arranged team never settled down, and far too much work was thrown on three or four members, notably on the Captain, J. E. Allen, whose defence and kicking with both feet throughout the term was very sound. He led a weak team with judgment and determination. Greenway, though always vigorous, certainly did not make for cohesion in the forward line, but played a much better game when he was changed to full-back. Curtis, moved to centre-forward, played really well, and would have scored many goals with adequate support. Batten, at centre-half worked hard, and tackled well. Though not quite so good in attack, he was of the greatest use to the team. Of the remaining members of the regular side, it may be said that they worked hard without any great success. A. Wilson, the most promising of them, at present, lacks speed. A. Brain played in several matches and showed promise, but was really too light for first eleven matches.

The Second and Junior Elevens were virtually the same team. They started badly against Cheltenham Grammar School Juniors,

but improved as the term went on, and gave any amount of promise for the future.

The Group Matches were keenly contested. The South, the winners, beat the West 10–0, and the East 3–1. The latter, however, were not quite at full strength. The West unexpectedly beat the East 3–2.

Thinking of the school football on the whole, one feels that three points, in particular, demand practice and attention if the old standard is to be regained—close marking of half-backs and inside forwards, shooting while on the run, and the intelligent development of a concerted attack by forwards.

\*\*\*

### MATCHES

Old Boys 5. Rendcomb 5—Home.

This match ended in a draw after a good game. We had the advantage over the Old Boys, in the fact that they had not played together before. But our defence was hardly quick enough against some good forwards.

Cheltenham G. School 12. Rendcomb 1.

Home.

We successfully held frequent strong attacks until half-time when the score was 3–1 in favour of Cheltenham. The team then went entirely to pieces against superior weight and speed. Throughout the game our marking was bad.

Swindon College 10. Rendcomb 0—Away.

Swindon got well away from the start. The defence was hard worked and could seldom get the ball up to the forwards. The latter, when they had the ball, were inaccurate in their passing.

Dean Close 2nd XI. 2. Rendcomb 5—Home

This was a hard and fast game. The whole team played well together and we deserved to win.

Tewkesbury G. School 3. Rendcomb 2.

Home.

Tewkesbury played a slower game than we expected, from the start. We allowed them to keep the pace they had set. We attacked more often than they did, but, though we after preserved strength we did not score enough goals.

Cheltenham Grammar School 15.

Rendcomb 1. Away.

We were weaker than when we played Cheltenham at home, but the team played better and harder. Morel who played in goal, was good.

Hanley Castle G. School 1. Rendcomb 0.  
Home.

We started off by attacking strongly, but our opponents scored a clever goal early in the game and then assumed defensive tactics, while we pressed till half-time. Afterwards we put great pressure on their goal, but we could not score. Curtis, who played well was not backed up properly.

Swindon 10. Rendcomb 4.—Home.

In the return match we played better than before. In the beginning we were leading at one point but after four good goals from our forwards, our backs and halves did not repel a strong attack by the good opposing forwards. The wing halves were slow.

Dean Close 2nd XI. 8. Rendcomb 1—Away.

Again the two wing halves let the opposing forwards through with but little resistance. The ball hardly ever reached our forwards and we were continually defending.

Unfortunately our usual match with Burford G. S. and a match against Mr. Simpson's XI. were cancelled.

### THE GENERAL MEETING

(Contributed by a Correspondent with whose views we do not necessarily agree)

There was much speculation at the end of the Summer term as to the success of the General Meeting last term, owing to the infusion of so much new and young blood; but the surprising fact is that meetings last term were much livelier and much longer.

Two rather controversial discussions and decisions may be mentioned. The Wireless set has been a thorny problem for the last six months; the old set was useless, and the question was, whether it would be worth buying a new set, and if so, should it be run by the boys or by experts. The meeting eventually decided by 21 votes to 12 to

auction the old set, and not to purchase a new one.

Another interesting discussion took place upon the policy of banking in Lloyds Bank the surplus cash in the school's private bank. There was altogether about £20— mostly profits from the shop which the meeting did not wish to spend— which could quite easily be taken away without there being the slightest possibility of the school bank becoming "insolvent". Interest on this amount for a year would amount to 10/-, and the meeting considered it would be worth having, whereupon it opened a deposit account in Lloyds Bank, Cirencester, with a deposit of £20.

Some general remarks may be added about the General Meetings of this term. In the first place— what is obvious to anyone— at the outside, only half the members say anything. This has always been a fault, but even so, it was more noticeable last term, than for several terms past— and the smaller members are not always the guilty ones in this respect; there are several older boys who sit or stand and say or do nothing except to raise their hands periodically to register their votes. Yet, in spite of this, as we have said, the meetings last term were numerous, lively and full of interest.

There has been a growing tendency of late— and it is not a bad tendency— to elect a small committee of three or five, to thrash a problem out, before it is presented to the meeting; in this way the arguments for and against can be quickly seen; members are much clearer in their own minds what the problem is, and it is certain that this method of electing small committees saves much redundant talk, although it does not obviate it altogether.

In the matter of electing committees, there is still a tendency— although the meeting may think that it is on its guard against it— to elect just a few people to a number of offices. The Meeting can do one of two things. It can elect the keenest and most efficient people to the various duties, in which case the majority of the boys take no active share in the administration and organization of the life of the school; or it can give everyone a chance of administering whether they want to or not, or whether they would be successful or not, in which case a lower standard of efficiency must result. The meeting finds it a difficult task to en-

courage keenness and efficiency by electing the keen and efficient people to its offices, and at the same time not to confine all their important duties to comparatively few boys.

Two final words of criticism. The General Meeting will not get out of the habit of discussing the details of a problem before it has accepted the principles underlying it. And there are still times when unless the Chairman is good, the meeting will switch over from one subject to another without any warning, and then find itself lost in a maze of irrelevant details. But from what we remember of the meetings of former terms, those last term were quite as enthusiastic as ever, and the number of times that any particular statement, expression, principle or detail was repeated was assuredly much less!

## MODEL YACHTING

Model Yachting is a scientific sport, which is becoming more and more popular. There are two types of model yachtsmen, those who sail their boats just for the pleasure of sailing, and those to whom racing is of first importance. Model Yachting does not consist of merely placing a boat in the water and hoping that it will go when the wind comes. To make your boat go to any special point, you have to adjust the sails, so that the wind will catch them at the required angle. In the construction of model yachts one has to consider the sailing water, and, if for racing, the rating rules which decide the size and shape of the required boat. There are three main methods of construction. The dug out, or block of wood, is hollowed out and cut to shape— the most simple of all the processes. Another simple process is the Bread and Butter system, which consists of a number of planks which are cut to shape, hollowed out, and then fastened together with glue. The third method, which is the most difficult of all constructions, consists of a heel or backbone, to which ribs are fastened, the latter being bent to the required shape. Planks are then fastened on to the ribs. The finished article is much more like her big sister than other of the constructions. Therefore I think one feels more satisfied with one's self after having built a model of the latter type.

During the summer term, several boats

were sailed on the lake, but unfortunately, during the drier months weeds somewhat impeded the course of the boats, and all the year round the prevailing winds usually blow towards the island, coming up the Churn valley. The yachtsman, therefore, has to be very careful how he adjusts the sails, or else the boat will be running before the wind and most likely be marooned on the island for several days. Also, when the boat goes over to the furthest side of the lake it is sometimes very hard to reach it owing to the dense undergrowth. However, I think the lake gives excellent practice to the beginner, because if he can sail a boat on the lake, and make it go to any given point, he ought to be able to sail a boat anywhere. In the summer term, work was started in building a landing stage which was most urgently required, owing to the sinking of the water in the lake. As many of the new boys, this term, are making model yachts, we may soon have a fleet and regular races.

M. C. R.

### FOOTFALLS

Oh! What a horrible moment it was, as he crouched motionless and shivering in the darkness, listening to the footfalls of the devil of devils- and expecting at any moment to be torn in pieces and devoured. Oh! horror! the footfalls came nearer. His heart stopped beating. It beat yet again, the footfalls died away. He had escaped from the voracious devil of his people. The beetle made a quick dart for its burrow in the dung heap, leaving the hedgehog supperless.

R. C. B.

### THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP

#### SOME POSSIBILITIES

*(This article, by the author of "Re-discovering England", is to be followed by one dealing in detail with the immediate surroundings of Rendcomb.)*

Many of us, I suppose, use maps when we wish to go from one place to another as quickly and easily as possible, and we find them very useful for this purpose, but not so many, probably, trouble to explore the full possibilities which are offered by large scale Ordnance Survey maps, to those

who love outdoor life-born explorers, who have had no opportunity, as yet, to follow their natural bent. To these I suggest that when they are considering how best to spend a free afternoon, they should not begin by deciding on a definite objective for a walk or ride, merely consulting the map as to how to get there, but that they should first study the map, within a convenient radius, very carefully and intensively, to see what possibilities the country offers. Even if the general features of the district are known, this careful searching of the map will probably reveal some surprises. I assume that my readers are familiar with the symbols used on the Ordnance maps? If not, these should be carefully studied on the margin of the one to be consulted. The most convenient map for use near Rendcomb is that in the scale of one mile to the inch, the special sheet for the "country round Cheltenham". A Geological map on the same scale may well be used side by side with this. There is probably a local Geological Survey map in the College Library.

When looking at a map of unknown, or little known, country, certain symbols are attractive, and seem worth investigating further. For instance, those places where contour lines lie close together, indicating steeply sloping ground. In the Cotswolds, these will be valley sides, and it is on these slopes that woods chiefly occur. There probably will be good scenery there, springs, old houses, or even tiny hamlets unseen from a road, and many attractions for the naturalist – on the other hand, there may be the risk of "trespassing" in such places. But familiarity with contour lines is useful in shewing where a good distant view is likely to be obtained. A steeper slope than most valley sides, and more interesting objective for those who have time to reach it, is the "edge", or escarpment, overlooking the valley of the Severn. The contours will tell you where this is highest and steepest, and from which of the series of projecting spurs the view is likely to be interesting, while a comparison with the Geological map will shew you how the slope of the ground here, or of any of the valley sides, changes, as the kind of rock which forms the surface changes. It will be slightly different on limestone, or sand, or clay.

With regard to the spurs of the Cotswold escarpment, note how ancient earth-

works, so called "camps", crown nearly all, and that these camps are marked in "Old English" lettering, except one, at Haresfield, which is marked in block capitals. Places named in either style on Ordnance Survey maps are usually worth investigating, for block capitals are used for what is believed to date from the Roman occupation of Britain, and "Old English" letters for "remains" from either an earlier period, or from the Middle Ages. So you can see at once that those Cotswold earthworks, often called Roman camps, are now supposed to have been made by earlier people, but that a real Roman camp was made beyond more ancient earthworks at Haresfield. Gloucestershire is richer in Roman and pre-Roman remains than are most of the English counties, and many important discoveries in connection with them are being made and followed up, which means that many of the old ideas about these early people have to be discarded. In some cases, these "remains" are interesting in themselves; such are the Roman Villa at Chedworth, or the smaller one at Witcombe, or the "Long Barrow" called "West Tump", in Cranham Woods (which however, is not easy to find). But often sites marked as "antiquities" on the map have been so much destroyed in the past as to be almost unrecognisable, some "finds" are intentionally covered up, to preserve them, and so lead to much disappointment. Even so, the sites of these tell something about the people who made them, if looked at in connection with the surrounding country. If you see such "remains" marked on the map, it is worthwhile to read something about them in a general book of reference, and then try to account for their positions when looked at on the spot. Note the positions chosen for the camps, often, though not invariably, on high ground, sometimes overlooking a wide expanse of country, though not nearly always in a position to stand a siege. Many authorities think that these earthworks were often built for the defence of cattle against wild beasts.

You will find that the barrows or Tumuli (the burial places of the great men of the later Stone Age, and of the Bronze and Iron Ages) are also, usually, in some conspicuous position on high ground, or rather, on what must have been comparatively dry ground, free from marsh and dense forest, when they were built. These

and "finds" of ancient pottery or weapons, or tools have been used to identify lines of prehistoric trackways. You will see that the Roman roads follow, for the most part, water partings between the streams. The Geological map will make this clear when it is remembered what an obstacle to travelling clay country, once swampy and heavily forested, must have been. And then note how the Roman Villas were built on valley sides, near springs (so, consequently, often near the junction of two kinds of rock) and were not on, but still not far from the main Roman roads. In fact they choose very much the same kind of site as those which are occupied by the existing Cotswold villages, and the old Manor houses and farms.

All these facts which the map shows, and many others, lead to problems which may be partly cleared up if you "*pick the map to pieces*"—in the sense of sorting out the information which it holds. Suppose you make a tracing from it, shewing *nothing but water* (all the rivers and the streams) and make another tracing of nothing but the "antiquities". I suggest that you mark all the "Roman remains" in one colour, all those of earlier times (earthworks and tumuli) in another, and mediaeval buildings in a third. Place this over your map of rivers, and both, if possible, or one at a time, over a Geological map, if you have one, noting the effects of limestone or sand, contrasted with that of clay. Remember where the swampy forested country would have been. Remember, too, how the wonderfully constructed Roman roads in some cases probably followed the lines of earlier trackways, and try to realise how important the character of the country must have been to the people who used them. This splitting up of the information on Ordnance maps, has infinite possibilities. One tracing might be made of existing villages, another of modern roads, and so on. And if a few keen explorers cared to record their excursions in some such form, it surely might be of general use for reference. A few sketch maps of the most interesting districts within reach, distinguishing paths which are rights of way and open to the public from those which are not (a point which is *not* shewn on the Ordnance Survey map) would surely be acceptable to visitors, new boys, and those in whom the spirit of adventure is less strongly developed.

## ACTING

From the point of view of acting, last term was very successful. The first few weeks were naturally unproductive, but presently Form IV gave an interesting performance of Stanley Houghton's "Lonesome Like", followed the succeeding Saturday by Harold Chapin's "The Dumb and the Blind." These two little one-act plays are among the finest of their kind. In both, although there is plenty of humour, there is a dominant note of tragedy which makes the correct atmosphere difficult to attain, especially for comparatively inexperienced amateurs. The success of both plays depends entirely upon the quality of the acting, and Form IV succeeded extremely well, especially considering that probably none of them were acquainted with either the Lancashire or the Cockney dialect. The chief criticism which can be brought against them is that they were not word-perfect in their parts, a fault which detracted from the success of two otherwise very enjoyable performances.

On the last night of the term, the Entertainments' Committee arranged some acting as part of the evening's entertainment. There were several short items, including a libellous skit on the activities of the stagemen (performed by the stagemen themselves), but the item which was most appreciated was an amusing parody on "The Golden Doom" – one of the plays performed at the School Entertainment. This is a play which, while very solemn and impressive

in its original form, lends itself easily to parody, and the actors made full use of their opportunities.

Apart from these, no organised plays were performed. There was, however, a considerable amount of impromptu acting – mostly hastily got up in order to add variety to Saturday night entertainments. One can say of all these performances, whether as specimens of dramatic art, they were good or bad, that they succeeded in their primary function, to entertain.

Thus from one point of view they were entirely successful, but one cannot help wishing that some of them had been rather more complete. Admittedly some of the most successful were arranged at very short notice, and we cannot but admire people who without the slightest preparation, can go on to a stage and parody something which they only saw ten minutes previously. Such an aptitude for "gagging" should certainly be encouraged.

Nevertheless one cannot help wishing that some of these impromptu performances had been thought out a week beforehand, and that some plot, however slight, had been found – if only to provide a background for the portrayal of character parts for which some people showed considerable talent. Any piece of acting whatever should be complete in itself, and the most successful of these performances would have been improved by being thought out beforehand.

E. D. B.