

RENDCOMB COLLEGE Magazine.

January, 1931.

Vol. III. No. 5.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Fourteen members of Form V. entered for the London University General School Certificate Examination in December. Of these the following obtained Certificates: J. Allen, W. Burns, W. T. Greenway, J. C. Maslin, V. Page, R. G. Collett, W. S. Boardman, E. D. Boulding, A. R. Curtis, P. Harding, J. E. Miller, J. R. Wheeler, R. C. Waters, A. R. Curtis and W. S. Boardman also Matriculated.

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We regret that Miss N. Leavey, who has been responsible for teaching Drawing here for the past two years, is unable to continue this work. Her place will be taken by Miss K. Leavey, who teaches this subject at Dean Close School.

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The following left the College at the end of last term R. G. Collett, J. G. Collett, C. S. Widdrington.

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The experiment, tried for the first time last term, of having a long week-end in November for a mid-term holiday was a great success. We hope it will be an annual arrangement.

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Since our last issue the lighting of the Big School and other rooms on the ground floor has been greatly improved, and the new conditions are very much appreciated by all who use these rooms.

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As a result of the decision of the General Meeting to play Hockey instead of Rugby

Football in the Spring Term, the former game of Hockey on the asphalt has been revived, and is being played even more vigorously than of old.

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Owing to the unfavourable weather at the beginning of last term, it was impossible to decide the final match of the Senior Singles Lawn Tennis Tournament. The Senior Doubles was won by C. W. Honeybone and J. H. Dixon.

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The following are prefects for the Spring Term:—C. W. Honeybone, N. A. Perkins, D. Field, W- Jones, A. Browning (East). C. W. Wells, J. Allen (South), T. Greenway, V. Page (West).

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Some of the positions of responsibility to which the General Meeting have elected for the Spring and Summer Terms, are:—Chairman: C. W. Wells; Secretary: C. Sidgwick; Cricket Captain: C. W. Honeybone; Cricket Secretary: F. J. Batten.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

D. Dakin won the Geoffrey Ellis Essay Prize at Peterhouse for an English Essay. He is spending this term, as part of his year of training, in a secondary school in Liverpool

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R. H. Newport has been acting with the Fulham Repertory Company.

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J. A. Davis, who was prevented by illness from going to Cambridge in October, is now at Christ's College.

G. T. Morgan is working in London with the intention of being qualified as an Analytical Chemist.

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A. Wilcox has again been running with the Reading University cross-country team. He is Captain of Athletics, and Chairman of the University Labour Club.

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F. Knefel, who intends to adopt hotel management as a career, is at present working at the Waldorf Hotel, London.

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R. A. Hussell is working with the Swansea Branch of Messrs. Duck, Son and Pinker of Bristol.

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R. G. Daubeny, who writes from Bhagalpur, Bihar, India, where he has been stationed for the last thirteen months, hopes to take his first leave in the Spring of 1932.

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

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OLD BOYS' DINNER.

For a long time it has been felt that the College was lacking in an institution which should hold an important place in every school which is self-respecting and prides itself on the corporate spirit of its members, past and present—namely, an Old Boys' Re-Union. Advantage was taken of the fact that London momentarily contained a nucleus of Old Boys, and on November 12th, an Old Boys' Dinner was held at the Craig's Court Restaurant, Whitehall. A company of about twelve assembled, and we were graced by the welcome presence of the Headmaster. At the end of the dinner, Mr. Simpson, in reply to the toast of the College, gave a felicitous review of the history of the College, dwelling most hopefully on the future. Old Boys

of every school always think that their school is "going to the dogs", but all such illusions were ruthlessly destroyed by the end of the Headmaster's talk. The whole dinner was marked by a cheerful joviality and a lack of ceremony; rather was it a reunion of old friends than a regular, formal gathering of Old Boys as such—the ideal, one would suppose, for such a gathering. It was, indeed, a most pleasant affair.

This dinner is a beginning, the ancestor, it is hoped, of numerous reunions in the future. For these gatherings are not pieces of useless ceremonial, in which every school indulges as a matter of routine. We must all look back to our school days with gratitude, at once as a scene of happy irresponsibility in friendship and pleasure and as a place of initiation into many of the arts of life. These re-unions serve the purpose of recalling these scenes of youth and of rekindling the torch which burned so brightly and was held aloft so high when we left school. It is proposed to hold an Old Boys' Dinner every Autumn, probably on the day following Armistice Day.

(W. S. M.)

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SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The Editor will be glad to receive immediately all outstanding subscriptions to the Magazine for the year ending July, 1930. He also wishes to inform subscribers that for the current year ending July, 1931, the subscription has been reduced to 3/-.

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All contributions to the Magazine not written by boys are signed by names or initials in brackets.

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LECTURES.

On Thursday, the 16th October, we once again had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Cook lecture to us. His subject, on this occasion, was the Dutch School of Painters, and we are sure that few could have treated the subject so adequately in the same time. He

began by explaining shortly, the position of the Dutch School in the wave of artistic effort which swept over Europe from Italy during the Renaissance. Then, beginning with the earliest painters, he showed us examples of the work of Gevard Dou, Hobbema, Nicholas Maes. Peter de Hooch and Vermeer of Delft, showing how the work of each depended upon outside influence, and explaining their individual characteristics. He concluded his lecture with examples of the work of Franz Hals and Rembrandt, showing us many pictures with which we were already acquainted, such as "the Laughing Cavalier" and Rembrandt's "Portrait of an Old Woman." What we enjoy in Mr. Cook's lectures is the way he takes pictures we have all seen before and invests them with a new beauty and interest, very largely owing to the fine reproductions presented by his slides, but more still through his interpretation and technical explanation. His lectures are always welcome, and we sincerely hope he will visit us again.

On Saturday, October 25th, Madame Krohn (who, on the preceding day had addressed the Cirencester Branch of the League of Nations Union) lectured to us on Finland and the League of Nations. She first of all described the country itself—the beauty of its lakes and its forests, its natural resources, and the sparsity of its population. She then talked about the people, their natural characteristics and their love of reading and music, and went on to speak of the great men of Finland. Having thus brought before our eyes a picture of the country and its inhabitants, she described the struggle of her countrymen for freedom from foreign control. She told how they won emancipation from the imposition of the Swedish language upon all their institutions; how their policy of passive resistance to Russian oppression ended in the War of Independence of 1918; and how, only this last year, the Anti-Communist League had been formed to check the insidious advances of communism into a country which had broken away entirely from Russia and Russian influence. Her narrative, which was almost wholly new to everyone in the school, was so stirring that it could not fail to arouse our interests.

D. F.

On Thursday, November 6th, Mr. H. V. Whitehouse gave us a lecture on "Man's Dwindling Enemies." Pointing out, how, in early times, before the invention of adequate weapons, man was hard put to it to defend himself from all kinds of wild animals, who, since the advent of firearms have ceased to be dangerous, the lecturer took us straight back to the period of the Giant Reptiles. He showed us some interesting reconstructions of these prehistoric monsters in their native haunts, and explained how they had been brought back to life from their ghosts, in the form of old bones found here and there over the world.

Before proceeding to the more serious matter in his talk, Mr. Whitehouse told us, with gentle and ironic humour of the old theory that it was man who compassed the downfall of this mighty race which dominated the world for eight or ten million years— and paused for a moment while we remembered that, so far as is now known, man did not appear in the scheme of things until some millions of years after the last of the Dinosaurs had passed.

The remainder of the lecture was devoted to a broad survey of the Bacteria, which, with the exception of the insects^ in commerce, are the only remaining enemies man has to fight. With the help of a slide of a magnificent power station, of others showing several forms of bacteria, and calling to mind the names of Curie and Pasteur, Mr. Whitehouse gave us an elementary insight into the relations between bacteria and disease and health. We became familiar with Cocci and Baielli and remembered a previous talk we had had on milk.

The lecture was warmed throughout by Mr. Whitehouse's inimitable kindness and good humour, and we cannot do more than ask him with enthusiasm to come again and give his famous talk about Bridges.

(D. W. L. B.)

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On November 29th, Mr. A. E. Thomas, of the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, lectured to us on Ancient Egypt. Besides illustrating several notable temples and monuments, his

slides portrayed relics from the tombs of great men of the various dynasties, including many examples of early Egyptian works of art. The lecturer's statistics of the size of the Sphinx and of some of the Pyramids, were of great interest, and by his remarks, in the course of which he referred to some of his own experiences in Egypt, Mr. Thomas stimulated our enthusiasm for what is too often regarded as a dull subject.

A. P. B.

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CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT.

On December 20th, three short plays were performed in the Big School, which, on such an occasion makes an excellent little Theatre. The plays were: "The Rising of the Moon", by Lady Gregory; "The Miracle of St. Anthony", by Maeterlinck, and an extract from "Alice in Wonderland" called "Who stole the Tarts?"

It seemed an excellent idea to perform these short plays of differing types instead of one long one. Thus, every taste in the varied audience was catered for. From the point of view of contrast the plays were admirably chosen. The first was a sketch, slight in character, but full of that Irish subtlety which suggests ideas rather than states facts. It had a kind of wistful questioning which is so near the dark deeds, and which seems to be characteristic of many Irish plays and poems. It was a play difficult for boys to act, as unlike the other two, it did not play itself, but required an insight into national character that schoolboys could not be expected to possess. Nevertheless, the chief parts were ably carried through by D. Field as the Sergeant, and W. Jones as a ragged man with £100 on his head. A tendency on W. Jones' part to shout we imagined to be for the benefit of his pals, the boatmen, down below; otherwise his interpretation was good in that it was free and entirely unselfconscious. This first play was, even so, perhaps the most satisfactory of the three from the point of view of the onlooker, for Lady Gregory's light touch needs a special kind of treatment which only experienced actors could hope to give it.

It was with great interest that I heard several members of the audience, who were discussing "The Miracle of St. Anthony" afterwards, express doubts as to whether the Saint really was St. Anthony, or merely an imposter after all. The actors had expressed their doubts very forcibly in more than one speech during the course of the performance, and some of the audience were highly troubled that Maeterlinck had not taken them into his confidence and told them definitely one way or the other.

There was, however, no doubt in the mind of St. Anthony himself as played by A. G. Ensor. This was really an excellent piece of acting, and it was more than that. From the moment that St. Anthony came on to the stage to the moment he left it he really looked like a Saint. It was interesting to notice that while through most of the play, the stage was rather overcrowded, St. Anthony always managed to keep himself quite apart, and though he was subjected to many moments approaching laughter and even ridicule, he maintained his dignity and quiet self-containedness throughout.

As foils to this character of the Saint, C. W. Wells as Gustave, C. Sidgwick as Achille, J. H. Dixon as the Doctor, E. D. Boulding as Virginie, and J. Allen as a Police Sergeant are deserving of special mention. C. W. Wells had a long part as Gustave, and carried it through with efficiency, if not with brilliance. C. Sidgwick's acting was noticeable chiefly for his ease of manner on the stage, but he must beware of certain mannerisms, such as allowing his hands to become too noticeable, and he should try to vary his gestures. J. H. Dixon had a small, though difficult role to carry through, of a doctor whose diagnosis always seemed to turn out wrong. We were beginning to feel quite embarrassed for him, until the patient obligingly decided to die after all, and so vindicated the doctor's first opinion. Virginie, the maidservant, was very well acted by E. D. Boulding, who gave a good interpretation of the character of the poor woman, torn by the conflict between the generosity of her inmate character, and

the worldliness that poverty had enforced on her. Apart from St. Anthony, she was the only likeable person in the play. Finally, J. Allen deserves a word of praise for the evident gusto with which he drank of Mlle. Hortense's wine. We learned afterwards that the beverage was cold tea, and marvelled at his enthusiasm!

"Who stole the Tarts?" was a delightful end to a most entertaining afternoon, and pleased not only the young but the old too, with its ever fresh jokes and its sparkling logic. H. C. Hanks as Alice was—well, just Alice, and one could not say more than that.

Of the other members of the cast, A. E. Shield, made a most efficient cook, who put as much pepper into her retorts as into her tarts: W. Y. Willetts was very good as the Mad Hatter, and R. A. Skelton, an attractive White Rabbit. If we criticise N. Slade for sacrificing audibility to a splendid display of bad temper, it is only because this indistinctiveness was noticeable in an afternoon when every other actor had said his words exceptionally clearly and well.

And here we must congratulate all those unseen members of the College who contributed so much to the success of the afternoon. but whose work was not of so obvious a nature. The costumes and effects were beautifully carried out, and the pack of cards at the end of "Alice" was a most effective piece of staging. (FELIX)

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ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

At the beginning of the term we were rather apprehensive, and indeed in the first three matches it seemed as though our fears were well-founded. In these matches we were playing on the defensive nearly all of the time; in fact often the ball was returned almost immediately when a back kicked it up the field. Perhaps this was not entirely the fault of the forwards, as, at times, the

backs, and halves kicked the ball to the opposing backs, instead of to their own forwards. Nevertheless, it was easy to see that we were weakest at centre forward. Woodruff could not fill the position properly, chiefly because he is too light to hold his own against heavy backs. Wells has weight, but he could not fill the position efficiently through his inability to kick with both feet.

It was finally decided to take Honeybone from back, and to play him at centre-forward. This meant considerable re-arrangement in the defence, but we luckily discovered a half in Batten, who had hitherto played forward. The plan was a great success; so much so, that the team as re-arranged at the end of October remained intact till the end of the term.

The chief points about the final formation was that this side played much more as a team. This fact was chiefly noticeable in the two matches against Cheltenham Grammar School. In the away match a set of individuals lost 0—11; in the home match a team won 5—4.

As regards our actual record for First Eleven matches, we won eight, lost three, and drew one. Half-way through October we had not won a match. Since then we have not lost one.

Our best football was played in our home match against Cheltenham Grammar School. The play had gradually been improving until then; since then we have played nearly all our matches on such rain-sodden pitches that it has been impossible to play really good football.

In goal, Page and Maslin have both played well, although Page has been preferred owing to his greater ability to deal with ground shots. The backs have been considerably changed about chiefly through injury. Allen has been very reliable both at left and right back. He has a knack of beating his opponent which seldom fails him, and

he also kicks strongly and accurately on the bounce. Field has been unfortunate in missing several matches, but when he has played, he has shown that he can use his weight to great advantage.

At left half Greenway's chief fault has been a tendency to wander from his position, thus often leaving his wing-man unmarked. Batten has played much better at half than at forward, and has considerably improved during the term. Honeybone has proved to be a really good centre-forward. Under his leadership the forwards have played much better together, and his ability to get goals contributed enormously to the success of the team. Wells' shooting was rather erratic at the beginning of the season, but he has improved throughout the term until, in the last match of the season he was shooting very accurately indeed. Burns and R. Waters both proved very useful, especially by rushing in from the wing and scoring goals, often from very difficult angles. Curtis was rather slow at the beginning of the season, but as the team progressed he became very good at making openings for the other forwards.

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DETAILS OF MATCHES.

College, 2; Old Boys, 2—Home.

Team—Maslin, Honeybone, Field, Jones, Allen, Greenway, Burns, Curtis, Wells, Woodruff, R. Waters.

College 0; Dean Close 2nd XI, 6—Home.

The chief feature of the match was that our opponents were much quicker than we were.

College, 0; Cheltenham Grammar School, 11—Away.

In this match the forwards seemed to shoot even less than in former matches. The backs played well, but they could not hope to keep

out the opposing forwards, who took every opportunity of shooting.

Team:—Maslin, Allen, Honeybone, Page, Jones, Greenway, Burns, Curtis, Woodruff, Wells, R. Waters.

College, 3; Swindon College, 6—Away.

The forwards were greatly improved, but, like the rest of the team, they found it rather difficult to control the ball.

College, 4; King's School, Gloucester, 2—Home.

In this match a great improvement was evident, the final arrangement of the team having been settled.

Team:—Page, Allen, Field, Batten, Jones, Greenway, Burns, Curtis, Honeybone, Wells, R. Waters.

College, 6; Tewkesbury Grammar School, 1—Away.

The team adapted themselves well to an uneven pitch and a greasy ball.

College 4; Rendcomb and Marsden United 2—Home.

The score would have been much larger but for the excellent play of our opponent's goalkeeper.

College 5; Cheltenham Grammar School 4—Home.

This match was by far the best of the season. Accurate passing, both between forwards and from defence to forwards, and really accurate shooting enabled us to bring off our best win.

College 5; Burford Grammar School 0—Home.

The College had the better of the game throughout.

College 7; Hanley Castle Grammar School 2—Away.

In spite of a very heavy pitch, the forwards, and especially Honeybone, put in a large number of good shots.

College 6; Swindon College 3 – Home.

This match was played in the rain on a very wet pitch, but the team adapted themselves to the conditions better than our opponents.

Team – Maslin, Page, Allen, Batten, Jones, Greenway, Burns, Curtis, Honeybone, Wells, R. Waters.

College 10; King's School, Gloucester 1 – Away.

Although without Honeybone, Field and Page, the team, by playing its hardest throughout the game, won by the largest margin this season. Wells, at centre-forward, and Allen, at left-back, were especially good.

SECOND XI.

College 2nd XI 2; Cheltenham Grammar School (under 15) 3 – Home.

College 2nd XI, 3; Cheltenham Grammar School (under 15) 2 – Away.

JUNIOR XI.

College Junior XI, 5; Oakley Hall 2 – Away.

College Junior XI, 5; Oakley Hall, 2 – Home.

GROUP GAMES.

As usual, the inter-group matches excited a large amount of interest. The West, who are very weak this year, were expected to lose heavily to the East and South, but they played so vigorously that the other groups found that they had to work really hard for their goals.

Naturally most of the interest centred upon the match between the East and the South; but unfortunately the East were not at full strength, and thus the game was not as even as was expected. All the same the South thoroughly deserved their win.

South, 5; West, 0.

East, 3; West, 0.

South, 4; East, 0.

W. J.

From Euripides' "HIPPOLYTUS."

Then came we to that lonely seaside road
Where lies, beyond thy kingdom's farthest
verge

A sea-beach, well thou know'st, that fringes
round

The dark Saronic sea. 'Twas there we heard
A low deep thunder like the bolt of God
That struck cold terror into all who heard;
Then straight his horse's ears pricked
heavenwards,

And fear and wonder struck us, whence could
come

Such sound as this; and gazing down the
beach

Sea-swept and hare, we saw a towering wave,
So mighty that it hid old Skiron's peak
And shut from view the Isthmus and the
rock

Of Asclepius; higher still it surged and
swelled,

Scattering white foam upon the raging sea,
And swept up o'er the beach where passed
along

The prince's chariot and the four fair steeds.
And as it broke – Oh God! – with foam and
flood

The wave shot forth a fierce and wondrous
thing,

A mighty bull, whose roar filled all the earth
And echoed back from cliff to cliff; a sight
Too terrible for mortal e/es to bear.

Forthwith wild frenzy seized upon the steeds;
The prince, well versed in horses' moods,
pulled hard

As when some sailor drags the rudder-oar,
And leant with all his weight upon the reins;
But they, the bit between their teeth, took
flight,

Nor all his skill nor reins nor chariot weight
Could stop them. If he tried to turn their heads
Towards the beach's grassy verge, the bull
Suddenly sprang before them, and they
swerved

Frantic with terror; but if they bore the car
Towards the rocks, in silence following
Beside the chariot-rail, he urged them on
Until the wheel struck hard a jagged rock,
And chariot, man and horses overturned,
And all was piled confusion.

D. F.

THE HOBBIES CLUB.

This term the Club was conducted under a new constitution, explained in the last number of the Magazine. The chief advantage was that more time was left for hobbies and less devoted to legislation.

The Field Section, which was restricted to athletic and scouting activities, was by far the most popular. With the help and guidance of Mr. Harvey, they organised four scouting games of different varieties, a paper chase, for which the field was not so large, and a camping expedition to Hilcot, which more than thirty members attended. One or two members particularly distinguished themselves as cooks, and others at lighting a fire with one match. It is hoped that in the Summer term the section may be able to camp out during week-ends.

The interest in stamps, which developed last term, continued throughout this, and most members considerably increased their collections. The Club collections of Foreign stamps, which have come on the outside of letters addressed to members of the College now contains well over a hundred varieties.

The Meccano and model boat sections, although they have a much smaller membership, produced a fair number of models until the last few weeks of the term, when the school plays demanded most of our spare time.

The gardening section harvested a crop of potatoes on the general plot, for the third year in succession, but decided to make a change next year.

N. A. P.

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A PLEA FOR THE RAILWAY.

Every age views with distrust the peculiar features and characteristic institutions of its predecessor, and so the present age deplures everything Victorian, or even Edwardian. Criticism of this kind is morally salutary up

to a point, but is usually indulged in excessively. An instance of this is the popular present-day attitude towards railways.

Many hardly consider rail travel, except as a last resort, complaining that railways are slow, dear, inconvenient, and so on; one almost hears them say "less safe" under their breath! Frequently they have not given these factors serious consideration, and travel by road for the same reason that they smoke cigarettes. An old car is regarded as useful, but a local train is ridiculed though equally or more useful. Motor coaches are "comfortable," because of their highly-coloured exterior, or because the uneven surface of roads makes pneumatic tyres a feature of most road vehicles. Motor coaches seem even to be able to allure the public by inserting "Pullman" or "Safety" in the title on the side. What should we think of "Southern Safety Railway Co."? Perhaps some of these ultra-moderns, bad advertisements for the twentieth century as they are, might be helped by the reflection that, although railway officials used to wear clothes of Victorian cut, the railway belongs in senses other than the historical rather to the twentieth century than the nineteenth, which, in modern eyes, is especially detestable as being "prim and proper", and which was long in accepting the railway as being fit for "respectable" persons. It is difficult to think of anything less "prim and proper" in that sense than an express train.

Air travel, too, though one does not wish to deny its possibilities, is being hailed as though it was certain soon to replace all other forms of transport. Perhaps some mathematician would calculate how many aeroplanes or airships would be required as a substitute for a 80 or 100 wagon coal train. And then one shudders to think of the air traffic problem.

In the matter of speed, the railway has the advantage both ways. It is the quickest way

for nearly all journeys where it is available, and provides speed enough for all except those variously called "speed-kings" and "speed-fiends", who dislike the absence of thrills. But it lacks the unpleasant sensation of rushing along close to the ground, couped in by two hedges, and swerving to avoid other vehicles.

It should hardly be necessary to refer to the greater safety of rail travel. It is true, of course, that rail accidents are usually on a larger scale than road accidents, receiving therefore, greater attention in the newspapers; but every sensible person realizes how vastly safer than the roads the railways are. Of course, there is great talk of safety coaches, but the increased safety, if any, of the occupants, being attained by greater braking power, leads to faster travelling, and, therefore, less safety for other road users, including pedestrians. The number of collisions and fires, however, hardly suggests a great deal of safety for the occupants. British railways are reputed the safest place in the world, and road accidents are admitted to be a public scandal. Scrooge, of course, would have seen in this situation an excellent expedient for solving the unemployment problem by "decreasing the surplus population", but let us hope that British common sense will not make the mistake of taking this short-cut. Let it rather rely on the rail, where every driver is not a law unto himself.

It is often urged that road travel is more convenient. This may sometimes be true of short journeys, for which the railway system was not in most cases primarily designed, and sometimes, perhaps, in the case of longer cross-country journeys. Quite frequently such complaints have no foundation whatever; and in how many cases is a short walk or ride to or from the station, when travelling by rail, to be offset by crowded roads, unpunctual running, lack of accommodation, failure to pick up, or luggage soaked through

by rain, when travelling by road? And if smoke is not the pleasantest feature of rail travel, its presence is not to the ordinary passenger as obtrusive as is often supposed; but the main-road traveller is either shut up in a stuffy vehicle, or else very much aware of the presence of exhaust fumes, which are much more obnoxious than smoke. For the road traveller, meals usually mean halts, and waste of journey time: the rail traveller has them on board. Except that to an even greater extent he is inconvenienced by the crowded state of the roads, the private car owner does not suffer from these disadvantages as much as the traveller by bus, or motor-coach. In many cases private cars will always be necessary until public transport services have reached a state of perfection towards which they are at last making strides, though it is a long way off yet. But frequently one man buys a car because he thinks it is fashionable, or because he is afraid of looking poorer than his neighbour—the very height of futility. And the private car owner is alone responsible when things go wrong, as they often do, in the most unpleasant situations.

Complaints of high fares on the railway are frequently the product of ignorance of the cheap fares in operation; and the remedy for this is not difficult. Besides, are not the complaints of road travellers a testimony that the economy aimed at by road users is false economy? Is it not time, too, that the public returned to the one form of land transport which is self-supporting and not dependent upon rate-payers, and the existence of which is vital to industry?

So much for utilitarian arguments, but there are others, too. Though to some all this may seem foolishness, there are those who know that there is a romance of the railway, a romance which, it is true, falls short of that of stage-coach days, but lacks also the dangers which beset the stage-coach traveller. No sane individual, however,

would ascribe to modern road travel one wit of the old-time romance, while it is not easy to compensate this by increased safety, because "speed-hogs" replace highway-men.

There is a romance of a night mail, but none of a petrol station. Railways, again, in one or other of their many aspects, are still, in spite of all counter-attractions, a never-failing source of interest to railwayists of all ages and occupations; but road vehicles can boast no such following, apart from persons commercially interested.

Last, but not least, comes the question of sociability, in the annals of which the railway compartment deserves a chapter to itself. The railway companies have realized that the British public prefers compartments; it speaks well for rail users that they do. There is nothing like a railway compartment for the formation of friendships, mostly of only a transitory nature, but none the less, sincere in their way, and worth the having. There are always the unsociable, the ill-tempered and the haughty, who can, and do help to spoil journeys, but they are the exception and not the rule, and happily a decreasing class. On the other hand there are many of us who can look back upon many pleasant hours in the train, which were enriched by the companionship of people made known to us through the unique atmosphere of friendship of the British railway compartment, which achieves the happy medium between publicity and seclusion. Is there anything like this on the road? No; one finds either the completely open motor-coach which is barren of travelling friendships, or the private vehicle wherein there are no new, friendships to be made. In an age when sociability and the breakdown of class distinctions, as they are at present, are so urgently needed, shall we madly cast away such an opportunity of achieving friendliness and sympathy, merely for a few pence,

imaginary convenience, or, worst of all, for merely foolish fashion?

C. G. V. T.

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SAUL'S HALL.

It is a perfect Summer day. The stable clock has just struck two. Over the tops of the trees the clock can just be seen. Almost everyone has gone to games. All is silent except for the clatter of cups, saucers, and spoons as the maids lay out the tea.

Lying on the beautiful settee, I look at the huge statue of Saul. After a few minutes I rub my eyes and pinch myself. Can I believe it? Saul is before me in all his former glory. His marble robe has turned into a royal robe edged with gold. His little coronet is turned into a crown, far more exquisite than any even wrought by human or fairy hand.

The harsh words "You are Senior Messenger" arouse me from my reverie.

H. C. H. (FORM 3.)

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SUMMER TERM, 1930.

Cricketing lads
In batting pads
Their willows wield
On playing field.
P. T. shorts
On tennis courts
And lazy scenes
On putting greens;
Giggling goats
In rowing boats
And little ladlings
Doing paddlings,
With Yahoos
In canoes,
Gramophones
And rattling bones.

(E. C. G. I. H.)

LIFE in a LONDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

(Our readers will, we believe, be interested in the following article, contributed by an Old Boy who has for several years been teaching in a Public Elementary School in London.)

At the end of August, 1928, I went to London to take a post as Assistant master in a slum school, under the L. C. C. Such a strange place London seemed after Rendcomb and Cheltenham. Amidst grimy houses and smoky chimneys, the streets were all crowded with dirty children playing in the gutters, for school did not begin until the next day.

How cheeky the children all seemed! In country villages when an obvious stranger walks through, the children will look curious and interested, perhaps shy. but they are always ready to be friendly and kind. Not so these City children! Even the tiniest seems to feel so up against life that he is always ready to hit out. To the stranger he is a curious and interested, perhaps, but ready to be rude, to shout out and be unkind, rather than to be helpful and friendly.

The next day school began, and the lads from those slum streets came rushing into their classrooms, with faces and clothes much cleaner and tidier than they had looked the previous evening. Most of them seemed glad to be back once more in the orderly regime of school life, and away for a short time, at least, from the grime and noise of the street, but the slum schools are veritable oases in the desert. One could not help comparing their thin, old-looking faces, and rickety underfed bodies, with the healthy blooming look of a country child.

During the first week of school, the atmosphere in the classrooms, with the hot

weather, became stifling, and many times during the day it was necessary to spray them with disinfectant. Imagine the atmosphere in their homes, where one family of five or six children and the mother and father, live in two rooms, and sleep four in a bed—two at either end! The school nurse comes round to the classrooms at periodical intervals with her steel comb and bowl of disinfectant. Many boys had to be sent to the school cleansing station, which is regarded as a great disgrace; but can one wonder at it, when the home conditions are taken into consideration?

In the London schools great care is taken to try to keep the children healthy and clean. Those who bring a penny have a bottle of milk to drink every morning, and others have Malt Extract given to them. If any boy comes to school unwashed, as is a common occurrence, he is sent out publicly to wash himself.

On the whole London boys are a "stocky" lot, and take great interest in their Football, Cricket and Swimming.

We go to the nearest park for our sports, and have a free ride in the tram-car to get there. Much of our sports practice, however, has to be done in the school playground, for it would take too much time always to go to the park. You may imagine the difficulties under which we labour, with a hard asphalted playground only just the length of a cricket pitch, and our wickets chalked up on the wall at either end.

These same walls also serve for goals in football, but with a little imagination they do almost as well as real goal posts. Football boots, did I hear you say? —Our boys cannot even afford proper boots for everyday wear. They have to wear any old boots or shoes they can manage to get hold of.

Almost every evening one may see their parents sitting about on the doorsteps in the grimy street, playing cards with the day's earnings for stakes. Then, when a rainy day comes, an excuse has to be sent up to the school, "Please teacher, Tommy can't come to school terday as he has no boots."

Many of the mothers too, in this district have to go out working every day, so big brothers or sisters are often kept at home to mind the tiny babies. All the children over three years of age go to school. These tiny tots play with toys for the greater part of the morning, and eat their lunch and drink their milk. Then, during the afternoon they sleep in hammocks slung from the legs of their upturned tables.

The boys take great interest in their interschool matches, which are played during the dinner hour or else on Saturday mornings. There is great rivalry between the various schools in the district as to who shall win the greatest number of matches. Often the brothers and sisters in one family go to different schools, for in these slum areas there is a school in almost every other street. Then the rivalry runs to a very high pitch.

Work in the classroom is undertaken with the same keenness as sports, and the boys are all very anxious to get on through the school. Some work that they may win one of the numerous scholarships which are attainable in London schools, and others are in a great hurry to be off and earning their own living.

In the Summer time, boys who can afford to pay a small part of their expenses go away for holidays to the school camps. These excursions are arranged by the School Journey's Association, and are looked forward to greatly, especially as the camps come during school time. Some of the masters from each school go in charge of the party of boys. The

poorer children get their holidays when the whole family, may be, goes "hopping." Then they come back looking brown and healthy after days spent hop-picking in the sun and open-air.

Altogether the London schoolboy is a cheery individual, and once one gets over his initial rudeness and cock-sure-ness, he is very likable. Together, in the grimy atmosphere, and drab-looking classrooms, we try to make our lives as happy as possible. We work hard, and play hard, believing that –

"In small proportions we just beauties see,
And in short measures life may perfect be."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

It seems very strange that the Meeting cannot maintain an efficient Wireless set at any price. They voted almost unanimously for buying the present set and now that it has been paid for, after less than a year, it is out of action for most of the term. At present there are almost no books on the subject in the School Library, and surely we cannot expect to manage what is after all a delicate instrument, without having any reliable information about its mechanism, or the causes of its defects.

I remain,
Yours truly,

N. A. Perkins.