

Rendcomb College

Magazine

MAY 1930.

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SCHOOL NOTES.

Founder's Day this year will be held on Saturday, June 21st, and we are glad to be able to announce that the principal speaker will be Colonel John Buchan, M. P. Both because Founder's Day last year unavoidably had to be postponed, and because this year will be the tenth anniversary of our founding, it is hoped that the gathering will be a particularly large and happy one.

As we go to press, we learn that Mr. Ferguson has been appointed to a post on the staff of Edinburgh Academy and that he and Mrs. Ferguson will be leaving Rendcomb at the end of this term. We extend to them both our most cordial good wishes for their happiness and success in Edinburgh.

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The following left the College at the end of last term: —

J. A. Davis, J. Eyles, C. H. Nawton,
N. Durham, C. T. Gandy, B. W.

Langdon-Davies. We welcome this term R. M. Ingleton of Aldersbrook School.

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There will shortly be hung on the walls of some of our corridors, and changed from time to time, a number of reproductions of well-known paintings. The nucleus of a collection of these reproductions has been provided, and it is hoped that the collection will steadily increase.

During the current term a new summer time-table is being tried as an experiment. There are three half holidays—Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday—while on the whole-school days, in order to make up the lost periods, work lasts from roughly 2 to 4-30 p. m. It is too early to say yet how the new scheme will work, but the hour before tea on the whole-school days is likely to be extremely useful for cricket nets, rehearsals, and other purposes.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

The following are prefects for the Summer Term: —

C. W. Honeybone, N. A. Perkins, D. Field, W. F. Jones (East); C. W. Wells, P. H. Wyon (South); T. Greenway (West).

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Some of the positions of responsibility to which the General Meeting have elected for the Summer Term are:

Chairman: J. Allen.

Secretary: E. D. Boulding.

Captain of Cricket: C. W. Honeybone.

Secretary of Cricket: W. Jones.

Banker: A. Browning.

Outdoor Games Wardens: J. Miller, P. Harding, W. Burns, V. Page.

Shopmen: W. Jones, J. Lambert, W. S. Boardman.

Games Committee: C. W. Honeybone, C. W. Wells, W. Jones, J. Maslin, V. Page.

Council: C. W. Honeybone, C. W. Wells, D. Field, W. Jones, N. A. Perkins, J. Allen, T. Greenway.

We congratulate J. A. Davis on being awarded a Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund Scholarship of £100. He hopes to go into residence at Oxford or Cambridge in October.

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H. L. Theobald, who has been for several years working for Messrs. Duck, Son and Pinker at Bristol, has been promoted to a more responsible position with the firm's branch at Bath.

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B. J. Meadows is working in the office of Messrs. Price, Walker & Co., Timber Merchants, of Gloucester.

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B. W. Langdon-Davies sailed for North America with his mother and sister on the 14th February. He is working in the Engineering Department of the British Columbia Electric Company at Vancouver, and writes very happily of his first impressions of British Columbia.

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N. Durham and A. C. Wager have obtained clerkships in the Cirencester Post Office.

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A. Wilcox, running for Reading University cross-country team, was second home for the team in every match. He also went to Aberystwyth as the Reading delegate in an Inter-University debate.

J. Eyles has entered the office of Messrs. Hunt and Winterbotham, Ltd., Woollen Manufacturers, Cam Mills, Dursley.

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F. H. Jones has represented St. John's College, Oxford, running in the mile and half-mile inter-College races. He also ran the half-mile in the University Sports, and has received his "Centipede" Colours.

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B. J. Brooks writes from Iraq, where, serving with No. 84 (Bombing) Squadron, R. A. F., he has been taking part in operations against certain tribes in the neighbourhood of Koweit. He hopes shortly to spend some leave in Egypt. Writing about Iraq he says, "Iraq consists of vast desert areas, known as the Northern and Southern Deserts, which are practically barren of vegetation except camel thorn. There are, one may say, only two really important towns in the country, at least that is from a civilized point of view, namely, Baghdad and Basrah. Both in Iraq and Persia oil is found; and an interesting view is seen about fifty miles from Basrah, where the oil wells were fired by the Turks in 1918 and are still burning. Communication by road has greatly improved since the British occupation. Nowadays a number of the old caravan routes are quite fit for motoring. Except during the rainy season one can motor nearly anywhere in Iraq, though off the marked routes it is prudent to take a guide.

Taken all round, Iraq is progressing very quickly, and after our mandate expires in 1932, and if the country is accepted by the League of Nations, it will be interesting to observe how this home of old civilization can take its place in the new or present day world."

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A. Smith has returned from Northern Nigeria on his first leave, and has just spent a short holiday in Sweden.

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C. H. Nawton has started work with the Scholastic Trading Company at Bristol.

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H. P. Dainton writes very happily of his work with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board in Liverpool, where he seems to be playing football with considerable success. He wishes that there were more Rendcomb old boys in the North of England.

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Unfortunately it was found impossible to arrange a Rendcomb Ramblers match on Easter Monday against a team of Cheltenham Grammar School Old Boys, as shortly before the date we were informed that the ground would not be available.

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

GENERAL MEETING NOTES.

A good deal, possibly too much, of the General Meeting's time is taken up by the organization of games, and during the Easter term it was necessary to transact business and make decisions that really arose from the previously determined policy of trying this year to improve and encourage the school cricket. For that purpose the Sports against Burford Grammar School (which, finally, owing to illness could not take place) had been put back from the Summer to the Easter term, and the question arose as to whether, in these circumstances, it was worthwhile to have any Rugby Football. Practice for the Sports would properly require several weeks, and some Association Football fixtures had already been arranged for January and February. The decision to drop Rugby Football for this year was probably a wise one.

The bigger question remains whether with our present day numbers and range of ages we can ever make much of Rugby Football. Suitable matches are not altogether easy to obtain; games are bound to be rather spoilt by unevenness of weight and strength; perhaps there is some danger of lowering the standard of our Association Football, at which, for a small school, we have in the past done remarkably well. Can we, satisfactorily, do more than try to give boys the chance of learning the

rules and a few main principles of the Rugby game, by having a certain number of "scratch" games in the middle of the Easter term?

To return to cricket, the General Meeting have an opportunity this term of showing that they can develop the game, without making it the tyranny that it can become to boys who have reached an age when, clearly, they will never like it, or be good at it. There are members of the College who have learnt at other schools how cricket can be made to monopolise all "spare" time, and who are quite naturally rather suspicious of a policy of making the game more compulsory. So the Games Committee will have to steer a careful course, and will, no doubt, show their ability to do so. The most important factor in the situation is that everyone (whatever his personal attitude to cricket) wants us to compete creditably against other schools in the recognised summer game.

Apart from games, and apart from ordinary business, which does not vary much from term to term, I have noted two or three other matters that may be of interest.

The Entertainments Committee tried an experiment—appreciated by some but not enough—of having one evening in the week for a gramophone concert of classical music. More may come of this.

The Meeting were inclined to insist more strongly than before upon the

ATHLETICS.

THE NORTH CERNEY RACE,

Saturday, March 15th.

For some years this event has attracted but few entrants. Last year only two competitors attempted the new course, but since then enthusiasm has increased to such an extent that this year there were no less than ten entries. All the runners are to be congratulated on the sporting spirit which they exhibited under the appalling weather conditions in which the race was run. It was unfortunate that the sodden state of the ground caused several runners to fall, but despite the difficulties encountered, the record for the course was reduced by half-a-minute. J. Eyles ran a splendid race and gradually increased his lead over Maslin. Field and Wells ran together for some time, but the former outpaced the latter a short distance before the finish. The younger members, although unacquainted with the course, acquitted themselves admirably, and it is hoped that they will show equal zeal in the future. The following who competed are given in order of finishing the course: J. Eyles (23 mins. 43½ secs.), Maslin, Field, Wells, Collett R., Ensor, Burns, Greenway, Allen and Widdrington.

THE INTER-GROUP RELAY,

Wednesday, April 2nd.

This event was marred by the absence, through illness, of several runners. The West were decidedly the weakest team, and neither the East nor the South found much difficulty in qualifying for the final. These two teams seemed of equal strength, and for the first three stages of the race, the advantage lay with the East. The fourth lap was up the slope, and it was

here that Collett R. overtook Maslin, and gave a three yards start to Wells, who maintained this lead over Field. The South thus gained their first Inter-Group success, having covered the course in 76 3/5 secs. Their team consisted of Nawton, Wells, Wyon, Allen, Collett R. and Widdrington.

THE LODGES RUNS,

Friday, April 4th.

The Junior race attracted twenty runners, and the start was made in a heavy storm. Roberts quickly assumed the lead, and gradually increased it until he reached the village turning. At this point Pullin showed much determination in challenging Roberts, and for the remainder of the race he continually decreased the winner's lead. Lowe and Miller H. ran pluckily against bigger competitors. The times were as follows:

1. Roberts. 15 min. 34 sec.
2. Pullin. 15 " 39 "
3. Lowe 16 " 31 "
4. Miller H. 16 " 46 "

Only six ran in the Senior Event, but the running was, on the whole, of a high standard. Eyles J., the winner, led the whole way, and succeeded in breaking the record of 13 mins. 27 secs, established by L. B. White in 1926. Maslin and Field both gave good performances, and Collett R. did well in overtaking Wells. The final order was as follows:

1. Eyles J. 13 min. 17 sec.
 2. Maslin 13 " 55 "
 3. Field 14 " 57 "
 4. Collett R. 15 " 56 "
- C. W. H.

THE HOBBIES CLUB.

During the past term the only section which has been conspicuously active has been the Meccano Section; its chief fault is that its members are much more inclined to work "on their own" than as a body.

In the Weaving Section there has not been much work done owing partly to the fact that some of its most experienced members have many other demands on their time. It is probable that the original members of this section were in some respects too ambitious, and also, perhaps, rather too "commercial" in their aims and methods. However, several new members have joined this section, and next term we hope to see a revival of energy.

The Field Engineering Section is working on a shed which is to be placed behind the Pavilion, but work can only progress slowly owing to the small number of members.

A difficulty has been that the younger boys who have recently joined have not always understood what the Hobbies Club Room was meant for. They have seemed to regard it as a sitting-room where they could read books and write letters; but this misunderstanding has now been put right.

The additions to the Club library include Baden-Powell's "Scouting for Boys," which should be very useful to the Field Section next term.

W. J.

THE DISCUSSION SOCIETY.

The first meeting of the Discussion Society was held on February 15th, when Mr. F. Sidgwick spoke on "Unwritten Lore." He gave us many fine examples of what had been recently collected in that respect, some of these being discovered in neighbouring villages. By comparing different versions of similar themes, he pointed out the accurate retention of songs and rhymes in the illiterate mind, and the discussion which followed centred round the accompaniment of bodily movements to such lore.

On Thursday, February 27th, Commander Richardson introduced the subject of Economics in their relation to Unemployment and War. It was generally agreed that the modern banking system was at fault, for on the one hand prospective purchasers were short of cash, while on the other hand Bank Directors, eager for sure returns, often invested in foreign industries, thus leaving home enterprises unsupported. It was the question of a solution of the problem that provoked most discussion. Some control must be exercised over the Bank, and exorbitant profits must be curtailed. One side advocated the socialist idea of complete state control over both the Bank and Industry, while the other side upheld individual directorship and organisation subject only to the minimum of state interference. The discussion had to be closed before any reconciliation could be achieved between the two sides.

At a meeting of the Society on Thursday, March 13th, Mr. E. H. Phelps-Brown spoke on "Peace" and the various methods by which it could be achieved. His introductory remarks formed a comprehensive survey of recent politics, and he then outlined the different channels

into which it was possible to direct enthusiasm for better international relationships. There was the conscientious objector's practice of passive resistance, and then there was Mr. H. G. Wells' idea that the people should force the Government to pursue a policy of peace. Finally he considered the possibility of the use of the League of Nations in securing peace.

C. W. H.

ACTING DURING THE TERM.

The form plays which were presented at intervals during the term were very much appreciated, the following being particularly memorable.

On March 8th the VIth Form performed Clemence Dane's "Shivering Shocks," and the Vth Form Lord Dunsany's "The Golden Doom" on the last evening of term. Both of these were produced by the Head Master, and in each case the acting and presentation were of a high standard.

Earlier in the term Forms IV and III had entertained us with an evening of variety, sketches, and music, entitled "The Show's La Chose," In this great originality, and not a little humour, was displayed. The promoters of the company are to be congratulated on their enterprise.

Concern has been expressed at the violent nature of Form I's private dramatics during English periods, and regret at their non-appearance on the public stage. Explanations are always inadequate, and often misleading; but when in the near future the curtain does go up on this vigorous troupe we hope that their latent talents will receive due recognition.

[J. R. B]

THE FRENCH PLAY. "LE BARBIER DU NOUVEAU SEIGNEUR."

Par Margaret Duportal.

Personages:

Le Comte Regis d' Apremont...	J. Allen
Tiburce...	W. Burns
Fabien	P. Harding
Babylas	S. Boardman
Eustache	J. Miller
Paterne, majordome...	J. Maslin
Honoré...	D. Uzzell
Césaire	D. Boulding
Martial	R. Wheeler

It is never possible, nor is it desirable, either to perform or to assist at a play in a language which is not that of the actors, without being conscious that another and fundamental element has been super-added to what would otherwise be a dramatic entertainment of an accepted type. The success of such a play, moreover, depends on how far this consciousness, both on the part of the audience and on that of the performers, can be made to harmonize with, and to refrain from jarring the entertainment as such. One too frequently judges the presentation by the success with which it has escaped being a series of recitations or a mere elocution exercise. This is valuable, though not sufficiently so, as it is purely a negative criterion, and neglects what is inescapable, the extraneous aspect of the foreign tongue already mentioned.

When therefore we say that throughout the performance of "Le Barbier du nouveau seigneur," by Form V, on April 2nd, we were conscious that it was a French play performed by Englishmen, we mean no dispraise. We would add that this aspect of it, combined with the choice of what was in itself a trite and forcible little play, made for an exceedingly pleasant evening's entertain-

ment, on which all concerned are to be heartily congratulated.

The theme of the petty lord, with marked homicidal and tyrannical tendencies, who is brought to his senses by the seeming temerity, but in reality logical calculations, of the intrepid and ingenuous young barber, is too well known to need outlining here. Such a play gains by precise and even speedy acting, and in this the performance of Form V was all that could be desired. The cumulative effect of the arrival of the barbers, the appearance of le Comte Regis d' Apremont, and the final confronting of him with his real character and the dangers attendant on his behaviour, was well brought out.

The facility with which many of the actors spoke their words was decidedly a feature of the evening. Burns and Harding in particular, displayed great fluency and assurance; nothing either said escaped the audience, and both acted well in addition. Tiburce's story, as he shaved the seigneurial chin, was a model of what the delivery of such a monologue should be, and one might say in passing that *V operation de la barbe* itself proved both instructive and amusing.

But it was to J. Allen, who played le comte, surrounded as he was by a helpful crowd of domestics and barbers, that peculiar and particular credit for the success of the play was due. From the time we heard his uproarious laugh at his summary dismissals of Fabien and Babylas, he spoke and acted exceedingly well and also successfully kept the balance among the minor characters. It was not an easy part to play; insufficient understanding of it would have made it dull, and any pretence of melodrama would have rendered it ridiculous. But straightforward acting and a sound knowledge and appreciation of his lines kept Allen well away from both of these extremes. It was to him, aided particularly by the

delightful performance of Burns, that the success of the play was largely due.

The various domestics looked and behaved as though they were quite at home inside the château, while the characters of the barbers, from the rustic rotundity of Babylas to the slippery grace of Eustache, were well assorted and convincing. In conclusion, to return to the language; we were well pleased with, and applauded to the full, French, as she is spoken at Rendcomb.

[J. R. B.]

THE DESECRATION OF RURAL ENGLAND.

We have only to visit some of the old-world country towns and villages, which played an important part in the history of the Middle Ages, to see that what was once picturesque England is now being transformed into collections of unsightly buildings. Highways which were unsurpassed for their beauty in the age of the stage-coach, are now stretches of arterial road, carrying motor-traffic ceaselessly across the countryside, views of which are obliterated by gigantic signs and advertisement hoardings. Unfortunately there exists a large proportion of the population which cares nothing for the preserving of their country's beauty, and who are willing to spoil exquisite spots for their own convenience and profit.

It is good to know that important steps are being taken by the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, and that in our own county, the Gloucestershire County Council has passed bye-laws, the majority of which refer to the highways, compelling the removal of ugly advertisements on the roadside and on railway bridges. One thing which cannot be stopped by the local authorities, but which

in many cases ruins the beauty of the main road, is the removal of trees from the roadside. Absence of trees tends to make the main roads barren and desolate.

There still remain a few country towns and villages which are yet untouched by the twentieth century, but with the building of new by-pass roads these too will be in danger. Historic houses and inns, which formerly were halting places on the stage-coach routes, are to-day falling to pieces from the vibration of the constant traffic, and are often half-hidden behind petrol pumps and unsightly signs.

Attempts have been made to destroy ancient bridges, many of which display fine work, in view of the fact that they are unable to support the considerable amount of traffic required of them. Being narrower than the remainder of the road, they create unavoidable congestion.

It is quite clear that drastic measures will have to be taken at once if the charm of our country-side is to be preserved. For those who know and love rural England, the present is certainly a time for decisive action.

[R. TOWNSEND,]

(The above is part of a lengthy and interesting article sent in; it treats of a very important subject which is the concern of everyone.)

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

STRUGGLE

With guilty conscience it seemed, he watched the hovering hand of his opponent. By one irretrievable mistake he had risked his all. The hand touched the key which could unlock the flood of destruction, and annihilate so swiftly his famous reputation.

It passed. For one moment he had hope; but it was dashed to the ground, as, with a yell of triumph, his enemy took his opportunity. He was beaten. His most, cherished possession, the Chess Trophy, had passed from his hands by that single move.

... AND STRIFE.

Tick! tick! tick! Slowly but surely the hand of that horrid instrument crept over the dial. He struggled frantically against time. He still had some hope. But for this last minute hitch, his opponent might have been so beaten by now, that recovery would have been impossible. The fearful moment was approaching when all would be lost, his whole career foiled because of his one slight moment of forgetfulness.

He looked up. The hand was hovering over the edge of the point, which when covered, would mean his doom.

"Time!" The call echoed through the room; and in despair he gave up his papers to the examiner.

G. D. W.